

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

AS 2018 LIBDAY PARADE CANCELLED

Apatang: It's beyond our control

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and the CNMI Liberation Day Committee said it was really unfortunate for them to cancel yesterday's parade, but the situation was beyond their control and the public's safety must be the priority.

Tropical depression to pass near CNMI, Guam today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Heavy rainfall is expected until Friday morning as Tropical Depression 10W has continued to intensify and slowly moved through the Marianas last night and today, Thursday.

» **Heavy rainfall expected until Friday morning; flash flood watch issued**

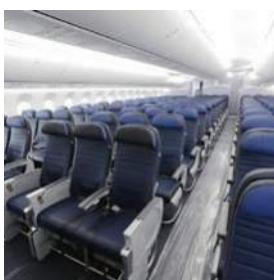
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A man tries to fix wirings at the 2018 Liberation Day celebration venue at the Fishing Base in Garapan yesterday afternoon. Booths were closed and most were dismantled, while canopies were removed as the Liberation Day parade was postponed indefinitely due to Tropical Depression 10W.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Federal regulators have rejected the idea of setting minimum standards for airline seats and legroom as a safety measure.

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ENVIRONMENT

Americans' fervor for Fourth of July fireworks has some unfortunate side effects—it spikes air pollution so sharply it becomes dangerous for everyone to breathe.

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LIFE & STYLE

Chowdown champions will face off Wednesday at Nathan's Famous July Fourth hot dog eating contest, where the men's record stands at 72 frankfurters and buns in 10 minutes.

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"[Wednesday] was the schedule of the Liberation Day parade and we apologize to all that had prepared the floats and had already spent a lot of money. The committee had also worked a lot of long hours for this, but this is something that we did not expect and beyond our control," said

Apatang in yesterday's press conference at their mayor's office conference room in Oleai.

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JON PEREZ

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, center, listens as Liberation Day Committee chair Joe Ayuyu Jr., fourth left, makes a statement in early yesterday morning's media conference at the mayor's office conference room in Oleai. Others in photo are, from left, Liberation Day parade chair Brad Ruszala, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Gerald Guerrero, and CNMI HSEM public information officer Nadine Deleon Guerrero.

ON HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA DESIGNATION

Torres: So be it if needed

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is supporting a petition to designate the CNMI as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking

Area, or HIDTA, if it becomes a medium toward the eradication of drug trafficking in the Commonwealth.

In press conference last week, Torres said he is in support of Senate President Arnold I. Palacios' (R-

Saipan) petition to include the CNMI as one of several HIDTA designations across the U.S. Palacios in a June 8, 2018 letter to White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli requests that the NMI be designated as a HIDTA.

The U.S. Congress created the

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Local

IN CASE AGAINST DRIVER IN 2016 FATAL CAR CRASH

FBI withdraws complaint vs driver who fled CNMI to Korea

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero had sought from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2016 the arrest of a Korean national who fled the CNMI to avoid prosecution after he was found drunk while driving recklessly resulting in him crashing his car to a pine tree and a power pole on Saipan, killing one of his two passengers.

According to documents filed before the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Nov. 25,

2016 and unsealed Monday, Guerrero wrote a letter to FBI special agent Hae Jun Park, requesting assistance in capturing the driver, Jai Young Choi, in the Republic of Korea and extraditing him back to CNMI to face justice.

Guerrero said in consultation with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the CNMI government is willing to shoulder all cost of extraditing Choi back to the CNMI "to face justice."

Following the commissioner's request, FBI special agent Park filed on Nov. 25, 2016 a criminal complaint against Choi for the crime of unlaw-

ful flight to avoid prosecution. The complaint was then sealed.

Last Monday, assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto, counsel for the U.S. government, moved the District Court to unseal the case and dismiss the criminal complaint.

Benedetto said the CNMI government has declined to pursue extradition of Choi from the Republic of Korea, necessitating dismissal of the unlawful flight to avoid prosecution charge.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Monday the U.S. government's motion

to unseal and dismiss the complaint.

In his Nov. 9, 2016 letter to the FBI, Guerrero noted that in the past years, few Korean nationals had committed crimes and have fled the CNMI to avoid prosecution.

"With this type of behavior there have been words out within the community that if they commit a crime, they may avoid prosecution by taking the next flight out," the commissioner said.

Guerrero said after the in-

vestigation was completed, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho issued an arrest warrant against Choi with the bail amount set at \$100,000 cash.

Guerrero said, however,

See FBI on Page 4

Torres eyes tighter relationship with Pohnpei

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is shooting toward a closer relationship between the CNMI and Pohnpei.

During a press conference last week, Torres stated that he is vying for a closer relationship with Pohnpei and ultimately, all throughout Micronesia.

"We are all Micronesians," said Torres. "I believe that strengthening that relationship is paramount for us to [be assisted] on our current issues, such as the CW issue, and work together as one Micronesia," he said.

Torres in June 26, 2018 was bestowed a traditional lordship status from the *nanmwari-*

ki of Madolenihmw, Pohnpei, or the king of Pohnpei, during a traditional *sakau* ceremony at the Garapan Central Park. He was given the name "Luahk" and first lady Diann Torres was given the name of "Luahkpeii."

Torres said strengthening ties with Pohnpei has long been ongoing. He noted that the CNMI has donated two vehicles for their police department; one ambulance; and two Department of Public Safety officers to train their police force.

"...They graduated close to 80 officers," said Torres.

"We are working on extending training for fire and emergency services," he said, noting that he wishes to start this month.

"I am looking forward to it along with FSM President Peter M. Christian, [who also] wanted to look for opportunities for the people of FSM."

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DPL prohibited from collecting fees from encroachment

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands is seeking the assistance of the Department of Public Lands to work around a public law that prevents the agency from discussing possible solutions to encroachment issues of private business establishments.

In a June 8, 2018 letter to Attorney General Edward Manibusan, DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo requested for the assistance of the AG to address encroachment issues of business establishments after several private businesses were found to be guilty of such.

According to Teregeyo's

**» Teregeyo
'Profits are made, but being prohibited from collecting, no benefit for NMD'**

letter, Public Law 15-2, or the law that created DPL, prevents the agency from pursuing discussions on how to resolve the encroachment issue, which they noted Saipan World Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Oleai Beach Bar and Grill, and Surf Club to be one of many to be found in violation of encroachment.

P.L. 15-2, according to Teregeyo, also prohibits the

transfer of interest or erection of structures in public lands within 150 feet of the high water mark of a sandy beach unless the facility is used for public purposes.

"The encroachments I speak of are unfortunately not for public purposes, but instead business establishments," Teregeyo wrote in separate letters to Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) last June 1, 2018.

Teregeyo noted that after reaching out to Surf Club, they even proposed a public benefit to mitigate the encroachment, however Teregeyo stated that such negotiations may not be arranged in the absence of any

legal authority.

"..DPL is restricted from issuing an interest in public lands that fall within this category and therefore, DPL is prohibited from collecting fees from business establishments in violation of this provision P.L. 15-2," she wrote to Manibusan.

"The business establishments enjoy using public lands and are profiting from public lands and yet DPL is prohibited from collecting,

leaving no benefit to the rightful owners of public lands, the people of Northern Marianas descent," she added.

Teregeyo on April 18 and June 1, 2017 reached out to the Legislature for "guidance" in resolving the matters, to which DPL proposes to charge and collect for encroachments.

"Currently, we have been unable to collect on any encroachment within 150 feet of the high water mark," she

wrote to Manibusan.

Surf Club was informed of the encroachment on Jan. 13, 2017, according to documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

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DPA Car Mart donates pickup to community volunteer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Community volunteer Max Aguon receives DPA Car Mart's donation of a 2005 Tacoma Access Cab pickup truck from the used car dealership's employees.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The DPA Car Mart recognized the efforts of community volunteer who has given his life to maintaining Saipan's outstanding beauty by donating a pickup truck to aid in his mission.

Max Aguon, a Saipan resident who has taken it upon himself to maintain the cleanliness of popular tourist spots in the CNMI, approached the *Saipan Tribune* about an amazing donation he received from the DPA Car Mart last week.

According to letters obtained from Aguon, DPA awarded him a 2005 Tacoma Access Cab pickup truck as a kind contribution and as a means to continue his efforts in keeping the

CNMI beautiful.

"This pickup will be used continually for the yearly maintenance of the Sugar Dock Beach area and also for the annual celebration of the Lady of Santa Maria Immaculada," Aguon stated in his letter.

Aguon wrote that the truck will provide a more reliable service for the continuation in keeping the entire Sugar Dock Beach cleaned and maintained throughout the year.

DPA Car Mart general manager Peng Cheng wrote that after so many visits to the

Sugar Dock Beach area over the years, DPA has observed the hard work and volunteer services put in by Aguon.

"I have witnessed your regular volunteer work in keeping this beach area clean

specially on the weekends. We sincerely appreciate your hard work and effort...we hope that you [Aguon] will continue to use this pickup truck in keeping our Sugar Dock clean and maintained throughout the years to come. This is also our way of giving back to our community," he wrote.

Aguon said that he is extremely grateful for the recognition bestowed upon him by DPA Car Mart because after all the years that he has continuously helped the CNMI, this was the first company that decided to help him.

Aguon said through a phone interview that the donation has motivated him to strive harder in his efforts to beautify the CNMI and to put DPA Car Mart's donation to good use.

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CHCC optimistic affected nurses will stay

The Commonwealth Health-care Corp. remains optimistic that the White House would quickly act on House Resolution 5956, or the Northern Mariana Islands Workforce Act of 2018, so all of their

affected nurses by the CW numerical limit would get the chance to stay and continue serving the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Health Center is one of the establishments that have been affected

by the numerical cap set at 4,999 for the coming 2019 fiscal year by U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services. USCIS received more CW petitions than the cap and used a lottery system to determine which

will be approved.

The numerical cap was reached in April and USCIS conducted a lottery for the 4,999 petitions where no nurses or any of the hospital's ancillary staff were selected. All of the hospital's 111 nurses are affected that could cripple the Common-

Mother's court battle to be with 2 kids continues

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Amalia Abo Guanlao, a Filipino mother who has been fighting a legal battle since 2013 just to be with her two minor U.S. children, is bringing her case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Guanlao, through counsel Rosemond B. Santos, has notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI Tuesday of her appeal to the Ninth Circuit.

According to Santos, Guanlao is specifically appealing to reverse the District Court's ruling issued last June 19 that dismissed Guanlao's petition for habeas corpus.

In her petition for a writ of habeas corpus, Guanlao seeks to appeal the immigration judge's removal order.

No other details were provided in Guanlao's notice of appeal.

In her June 19 order that granted U.S. Homeland Security officials' motion to dismiss, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood said since Guanlao failed to exhaust administrative remedies of her claims, she would generally be required to return to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) to pursue them.

However, Tydingco-Gatewood said, the 30-day window for filing a motion to reopen the case has lapsed, and the District Court lacks jurisdiction to order the window reopened.

Thus, the judge said, Guanlao cannot prevail on her due process claim in the District Court, before the BIA, or before the Ninth Circuit.

The U.S. government recently asked the federal court to dissolve its 2016 order staying an immigration judge's

ruling for Guanlao's removal.

Following the U.S. government's motion to dissolve, Tydingco-Gatewood ordered Guanlao to file a response by July 9.

Department of Justice Office of immigration litigation trial attorney Adrienne Zack, counsel for respondents U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials, said while their motion is not listed as a non-hearing motion per se, it is essentially requesting clarification of the court's intent in dismissing the case.

Zack said if the court determines that a hearing is not necessary, the respondents do not request one.

On June 23, 2016, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued a stay of Guanlao's removal from the U.S.

Zack moved the court to formally lift the stay of re-

moval because this case has been resolved.

According to court records, Guanlao's court battle began on Sept. 10, 2013 when an immigration judge found that Guanlao was removable as an alien present without a valid immigrant visa or entry document and ordered her removed to the Philippines.

Guanlao, who herself has a medical condition, has been residing on Saipan for over 24 years now.

Aside from naming then-U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson as respondent, Guanlao also sued several U.S. immigration officials.

Guanlao said her husband has been working in Saipan since 1989.

The couple's two minor children were born on Saipan.

"They are the reason why I want to live longer and to be with them for the rest of my life," Guanlao said.

On Chalan Pale Arnold or Middle Road, the shoulder of the road and portion of outer lane at some areas had been flooded.

Only few picnic tables, chairs, and tents installed for the Liberation Day parade were seen at this time on the side of Beach Road as families and groups removed them due to cancellation of the event. A few, however, continued their picnic in their tents and in the pavilions.

Packing maximum sustained winds at 35 miles per hour, Tropical Depression 10W is forecast to continue to intensify, possibly becoming a tropical

storm Wednesday night. As of 5pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Depression was 115 miles southeast of Guam, 130 miles south-southeast of Rota, 185 miles south of Tinian, 190 miles south of Saipan, and 445 miles south of Agrihan.

As of 5pm, tropical storm warning remained in effect for Guam and Rota. It means that tropical storm conditions, including damaging winds of 39mph or more, were expected last night.

As of this same time, tropical storm watch remained in effect for Tinian and Saipan. It means tropical storm con-

ditions, including damaging winds of 39mph or more, are possible within 24 to 36 hours.

NWS' forecast is that Tropical Depression 10W will pass near Guam early morning today, Thursday.

NWS said a northward shift could still bring Tropical Depression 10W over Guam or through the Rota Channel.

NWS advised the people of the CNMI and Guam to prepare for increasing winds by securing loose outdoor items and canopies.

Mariners should make all necessary preparations to return to port, seek safe harbor, and secure their vessels.

of what Saipan went through during Typhoon Soudelor. "At the end of the day, we want to be prepared. A few years ago, we experienced something pretty bad, the strong winds of Typhoon Soudelor."

"We don't want to have that same experience again. This time we're taking the right steps. It is early, but the call needs to be done since we're expecting the stronger part of the winds to hit us late [Wednesday] or early Thursday morning," said Ayuyu.

"If we were to have continued with the parade, we're all going to have fun for now until the evening and then nobody would probably secure things or remove things late at night or even tomorrow morning. But things need to be done in advance now."

As of 2pm Tropical Depression 10W is located 11.9 degrees north and moving slowly toward north-northwest at 5mph based on the bulletin released by the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency.

HSEMA special assistant Gerald Guerrero said they would release updates every three hours as they continue to track the direction of the storm. "Let's just hope for the best as we continue to inform the public."

"Now is the time to prepare rather than wait before it's too late. We advised the public to be prepared, secure all loose items in your house, and the campers along Beach Road to take down their tents and secure it," said Guerrero.

HSEMA public information officer Nadine Guerrero added that they are also advising the public to prepare at all costs. "Gas up their cars, withdraw cash, and stock up on basic necessities like food and water. We just never know the track

of the storm."

Liberation Day parade chair Brad Ruszala said safety has been their No. 1 concern. "Everybody wants to have the parade today, but it is just the weather did not cooperate with us. So, for everybody's safety, we postponed it. We appreciate all the effort that everyone has put in—preparing the floats and their marching groups—the off-island folks that flew in to join the festivities."

"We're going to know what's the weather forecast next and decide when can we have it, most convenient for the public, to put the word out to media and social media or just through word of mouth."

As of this writing, most of the tents at the Garapan Fishing Base and along Beach Road had been taken down, while the stage in front of the Kristo Rai Church had been secured.

wealth's healthcare system.

CHCC public information officer Sami Birmingham-Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* that although they have yet to make an official statement they are hopeful the bill would be signed just in time before FY 2019 starts on Oct. 1, 2018.

"CHCC is optimistic that President Trump will sign the CW1 bill and hopeful that we will be able to retain all our [111] nurses and continue operations as normal," Birmingham-Babauta said.

She added that CHCC's human resources department would still move forward in transitioning their nurses to other U.S. applicable visas. "We are still moving forward to transition our nurses from CW to EB2 [visas]. But the bill signed into law, it allows us [more] time to have that transition done smoothly."

CHCC chief executive offi-

cer Esther L. Muna, in earlier interviews, said that they are exhausting all of their efforts and won't stop processing all of their nurses to other employee-based visa categories like EB2 and H1-B.

Most of CHCC's CW nurses would expire on Sept. 30, 2018 and they would have to leave the CNMI if the bill, which unanimously passed in the U.S. House and Senate, is not signed on time.

Once H.R. 5956 is signed it will extend the Commonwealth-only Transitional Worker or CW1 program until 2029 and increase FY 2019's numerical limit to 13,000 from the 4,999.

However, the CW1 cap would still be reduced by 500 for every FY from 2019 to 2023 and 1,000 until 2029. There would be 1,000 permits approved only for the first quarter of FY 2030. (*Jon Perez*)

"If it takes me to [designate the CNMI as a HIDTA] so we can avail of grants, then we should—we should always put a priority on drug [trafficking prevention]," he said.

Each HIDTA receives a base amount of funding ranging from \$3.1 million to \$14.6 million each year to support anti-drug trafficking initiatives and drug rehabilitation initiatives for the region.

According to Palacios' letter the HIDTA designation of the CNMI facilitates greater cooperation and sharing of information between local and federal law enforcement agencies, as those under the program receive multiagency assistance ranging from enforcement initiatives involving investigation, interdiction, and prosecution, to drug use prevention and treatment initiatives.

Torres said he wanted to reinforce the borders to stop the drugs from entering the NMI. "...We have to acknowledge that there are drugs here and we have done well in tracking those drugs [along with the] treatment that comes after," said Torres. "If [HIDTA designation] is what it takes to enhance this even more, then yes we should apply for [HIDTA designation], but we should not be complacent."

He said that the prevention and interception of drug trafficking activities in the NMI should remain a priority, and noted that he has been looking to secure an X-ray for the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Customs under the Department of Finance.

Dae Young Kwon, the male passenger in the front seat, was ejected from the car upon impact. He died from the injuries the following day, Feb. 28.

Another passenger, Hui Ra Jung, was observed unconscious in the back seat of the vehicle.

Camacho issued the arrest warrant for Choi after he determined there was probable cause for his arrest on charges of homicide by vehicle, reckless driving, driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and exceeding speed limits.

However, Park said, the warrant was not executed as Choi fled the CNMI on Feb. 28 on a Jeju Airlines flight bound for Seoul, Korea.

TROPICAL

From Page 1

advisories which will be available through the local media sources and CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point.

The CNMI experienced rains starting yesterday morning until last night.

On Saipan, as of 2:30pm yesterday, minor flooding occurred on the shoulder of the road at some areas of Beach Road. Northbound vehicles slowed down in front of StaR Water as water filled up half of the lane.

APATANG

From Page 1

"This thing happened several years ago where we have to cancel everything and reschedule everything at a later date. This is not something new and it happens every year, every July we expect that. Now, we have to meet and decide when are we going to have the parade."

He added that the weather situation had always been unpredictable every July. "We're going to meet [and decide] when to have it, but it depends on the weather situation. Once the committee had decided, we're going to let the public know. We've been through this before, we have a parade after July 4."

Liberation Day chair Joe Ayuyu Jr. said they wanted the public to be prepared for the coming storm to avoid a repeat

FBI

From Page 2

the arrest warrant was not served as Choi had already fled the CNMI.

In his affidavit in support of criminal complaint and arrest warrants, FBI special agent Park said Choi was the driver of the four-door Hyundai Azera that slid off the roadway and struck a tree and utility pole on Beach Road in San Jose, Saipan in the evening of Feb. 27, 2016.

Park said Choi was found drunk and admitted to police officers he had consumed "five Soju and two to three beers."

Officers determined that Choi was speeding.

2 sue ex-landlord for allegedly overcharging them for electricity

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

IT&E's sales manager Hans Mickelson and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member Matthew Holley are suing the owner and landlord of their former apartment units in Gualo Rai for allegedly overcharging them for several years for electricity provided by CUC.

Mickelson and Holley, through counsel Tiberius Mocanu, are suing Frank Moniz and USPG for fraudulent misrepresentation and Consumer Protection Act violations.

Saipan Tribune tried to get comments from Moniz, but as of yesterday he was off-island.

Mickelson and Holley asked the Superior Court to find defendants to have committed fraudulent misrepresentation against each of them and for violations of the CNMI Consumer Protection Act.

They asked the court to hold defendants liable to pay them damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Plaintiffs Mickelson and Holley did not specify the amount that they were allegedly overcharged. They also did not indicate the amount of damages they are demanding.

Holley, a lawyer, took oath as CUC board member in November 2017.

According to Mocanu in the complaint filed last week, Brabu Building located along Middle Road in Gualo Rai is owned and operated by USPG, which is doing business as Akari International Holdings.

Mocanu said Moniz is US-

PG's principle shareholder and holds managerial status for USPG.

Brabu Building contains apartment units that are rented out to tenants.

From 2013 to 2018, Mickelson was a tenant of an apartment unit located in the building. From January 2009 to Sept. 15, 2015, Holley was a tenant of another apartment unit in the same building.

Mocanu said during both Mickelson's and Holley's respective tenancies, in addition to rent, Moniz and USPG charged them \$0.445/kWh for electricity provided by CUC.

In order to determine the applicable rates, Mocanu said, CUC splits customer power usage into tiers, each tier with its own assigned rate and electricity usage threshold.

During their respective tenancies, both Mickelson and Holley allegedly exceeded a tier 1 rate, but never exceeded a tier 2 rate.

CUC publishes its applicable rates to the public, such as its "electric non-fuel rate or base rate" and its "fuel adjustment charge (FAC)," which was formerly known as the "levelized energy adjustment clause (LEAC)."

Moniz and USPG provided a monthly statement each month to their Brabu Building apartment tenants.

Mocanu said the defendants used their own sub-meters in order to determine each tenant's kilowatt hour usage.

Mocanu said CUC officials have determined that defendants' sub-meters are not compliant with CUC regulations.

He said in order to de-

termine each plaintiffs' monthly kilowatt usage, Moniz and USPG recorded the kilowatt hour amount on each plaintiff's sub-meter at the beginning of the month and then recorded the kilowatt hour amount at the end of the month.

Mocanu said the difference between the kilowatt hour amount at the beginning of the month and the amount at the end of the month was considered each plaintiff's monthly kilowatt usage for his apartment unit for that month.

He said defendants determined the amount owed for each plaintiff's power usage in the monthly statement by multiplying the plaintiff's monthly kilowatt usage for his apartment unit by the defendant's \$0.445/kWh rate.

Around 2016, Mickelson became suspicious of the 0.445/kWh that USPG and Moniz charged him.

Mocanu said Mickelson spoke to Moniz at least three times concerning the \$0.445/kWh charge.

On both occasions in July 2016 and July 2017, Moniz

allegedly represented to Hans that the \$0.445/kWh charge was the same rate CUC charged the Brabu Building apartments.

Moniz allegedly told Mickelson that he can move out of the building if he did not like the rate.

Mocanu said during Mickelson's and Holley's entire tenancy, CUC never charged an FAC/LEAC rate of \$0.445/kWh and the sum of CUC's Tier 1 and Tier 2 rates was never \$0.445/kWh.

The lawyer said that, over the course of plaintiffs' ten-

ancies, USPG and Moniz profited from the difference between the flat \$0.445/kWh rate that they charged them and the lower applicable CUC electrical rates at the time.

He said defendants never provided Michelson and Holley with a specific breakdown of their electricity bill in the monthly statement, despite requests.

Mocanu said defendants were effectively "reselling" power at a higher rate than provided to the general public by CUC.

CUC: FAC remains same for July

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. had announced that the Fuel Adjustment Charge remains at \$0.22317 per kWh for the month of July.

Although there has been a slight decrease in the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing from June to July as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the decrease did not equal or exceed a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel. Accordingly, there will be no adjustment made to the overall CUC kWh rate for the month of July.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the MOPS monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5 per-

cent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used the calculation of the current FAC rate.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC Electric Rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC Base Rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This Base Rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC first instituted LEAC in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the rate. (PR)

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2 work shifts seen to speed up IPI resort construction

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrera@saipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and contractor Pacific Rim Contractors are exhausting all efforts to finish

the Imperial Pacific Resort as soon as possible and talks of having two work shifts have come out.

During the monthly meeting of IPI executives and the Commonwealth Casino Com-

mission last week, the former admitted that they would not be able to finish construction in August as stated in the casino agreement.

According to Eric Poon, vice president for construction, a possible second work shift has been laid on the table.

"Pacific Rim and IPI have been talking about second (work) shift which will start after 7pm until midnight. Right now, we already notified the people concerned about the possibility of nightshift work."

"The exact date we still have to iron out with Pacific Rim because right now, we have to put the safety features needed especially at night before we put a date for the second (work) shift," he added.



BEA CABRERA

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC vice president for construction Eric Poon, right, and IPI chief executive officer Henry Cheang attend the Commonwealth Casino Commission general meeting last Thursday at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library conference room in Susupe.

Poon said that they need more time to circulate the work that needs to be done daily. "The things that we are going to do at night will compose of re-stocking materials because day time we have construction activities."

"This is why nighttime will be dedicated to restocking materials and welding for the building façade. Those things are in line that's why we are considering night shift work," he added.

Construction of the Imperial

Pacific Resort suffered delays and the No. 1 reason was due to lack of manpower.

"For the past few months IPI has significantly increased manpower especially from IPI's side as we have H2-B workers. It helped us a lot to put our schedule even further... Moving along I can say we are back to normal like the way we want it," he said.

"Currently, we have 68 management staff and 1,402 workers in construction—44 from Sinopan, 677 from Pacific Rim, and 700 IPI H2-B workers... we are still hiring... our requirement is 1,500 workers and right now we have 700 so we still have room to grow for sure," he added.

Rim, and 700 IPI H2-B workers... we are still hiring... our requirement is 1,500 workers and right now we have 700 so we still have room to grow for sure," he added.

With a strengthened manpower, what IPI is looking at is to have additional time. "Moving along, I can say we are back to normal like the way we want it. Once again, we just need time to complete the construction and that's all we are focused on," Poon said.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**ADDENDUM NO. 1
ITB NO.: ITB18-OPD-094**

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 06, 2018 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (OPD)"

July 03, 2018

The CNMI Government has been granted an Administrative Leave for July 05, 2018 and the Division of Procurement and Supply will be closed on this day.

Therefore, this addendum is issued to **EXTEND** the proposal submission deadline date from **July 05, 2018 at 9:30 am to July 06, 2018 at 10:30 a.m., local time**.

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

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Field Engineer

Job Description:

Provide project development, stewardship and construction management in accordance with capital plan, across five affiliates' terminals in Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Marshall Islands.

Primary Job Functions:

- Scoping and development of projects to meet the business capital plan
- Management of project construction including safe work practices
- Stewardship and management of capital and maintenance & repair operating expense budget

Qualifications:

- A Bachelor of Engineering degree (Mechanical, Civil, or related engineering discipline desirable)
- Experience on project engineering and construction management
- Basic knowledge and understanding of Security, Safety, Health, and Environment management principles
- Understanding of US federal and local regulations as applied to project construction activities
- Ability to proactively assess operational issues and develop options for solution
- Ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing

Preference will be given to candidates with minimum five years' experience of project engineering and construction management and relevant experience with API 650 tank construction and API 653 tank repairs and with knowledge and background in petroleum industry.

This position will be based at Mobil Terminal in Saipan. Occasional off-island business travel will be required as part of the job. Remuneration will be commensurate with the successful applicant's relevant skills and experience.

If you are interested in and/or meet the qualifications for this position, please submit your resume on or before July 13, 2018 to the following:

Attention to:
Maria P. Kemp, CNMI Field Operations Manager
P.O. Box 500367 C.K. Saipan, MP 96950
(Fax) 670 236-8190
Email: maria.kemp@exxonmobil.com

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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CWCHI
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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program 2019 State Plan is now available for public review and comments from July 02-09, 2018. Interested members of the general public may review the CNMI WIC Program 2019 State Plan at the WIC Program's Administrative Office located in Upper Navy Hill, Mayoria Ave. Building N25. Office hours are from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (Monday-Friday). All public comments must be submitted in writing to the WIC Program Administrator at the same office no later than close of business on July 9, 2018.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov.
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

/s/ **Esther L. Muna**
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ **Erin Angela Camacho**
WIC Program Administrator

CUC, Tinian working on sewer system

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been working with the Tinian and Aguijan Legislative Delegation in providing a sewer system in the island's largest village.

CUC and the Tinian delegation are now in the process of developing a strategy so they could provide a sewer treatment and collection to the West San Jose area as stated on their 2017 CUC Tinian Water Quality Report from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

The treatment and collection facility is now fully built and currently relies on septic systems in handling wastewater.

CUC is also concerned on the nitrate levels as they continue their planning efforts in providing the needed funds to install sewer infrastructure in

the said location.

It has been CUC's goal to provide their consumers with clean and potable water as well as having a 24-hour supply.

Today, according to the report, all of Tinian's water customers are now enjoying 24-hour water service.

"Our CUC water employees continue to strive to deliver a quality product to all of our customers and to protect the CNMI's water resources," CUC said in the report.

CUC, to ensure water safety, had been strictly monitoring the CNMI's water quality from contaminants as stated in local and federal laws under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other rules and regulations from the local Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

Trained laboratory and water treatment specialists have been conducting annual tests on Tinian's water samples. These tests could reach 1,000 each year.

CUC collects water quality samples from Tinian's water systems where they test treated and untreated water samples taken from their facilities and sample sites in service areas and homes of their consumers.

One Maui-type well is Tinian's primary water source where CUC's water operators, in order to control contamination, add trace amounts of chlorine to the water before it is distributed to their customers.

CUC released a similar report for Saipan where they are focused in reducing the island's non-revenue water loss, while also getting help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in keeping the water infrastructures typhoon-resilient.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors & caregivers support meeting on July 11

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 11, 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room.

To RSVP or for more information, please call the Com-

monwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarinas@gmail.com. (PR)

MHS student orientations set

Marianas High School will be conducting their school year 2018-2019 student orientations:

■ Aug. 9, 9am-12pm: Incoming freshmen & new transfer students; school gym

■ Aug. 10, 9am-12pm: Sophomores; school gym

■ Aug. 13, 9am-12pm: Juniors; school gym

■ Aug. 14, 9am-12pm: Seniors; school gym

MHS students can now register for their courses by visiting our school website at marianashighschool.com or logging in directly to <https://goo.gl/forms/bJKezkcxGo-s9WVx2>. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM, DR-4235-MP
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION FOR BID ITB18-GOV-113

Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters -Rota Courthouse Building

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program are soliciting sealed bids for the supply and installation of typhoon shutters at the Rota Courthouse Building on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available June 20, 2018 at the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt must be presented when obtaining a package. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIA) §70.30.3-725 Gratitudes and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference followed by site visitation on Rota for this project on July 10, 2018, 10:00 a.m. at the Rota Courthouse. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Leona DLG. Sablan in writing by e-mail: leona.cip@gmail.com, on or before July 13, 2018 to the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked ITB18-GOV-113 Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters- Rota Courthouse Building. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 9:00 a.m. CHST, July 20, 2018. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. CHST, July 20, 2018 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 20, 2018 and the bid documents must be received no later than July 31, 2018. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply , Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 10:00 a.m. CHST, August 1, 2018. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 10:00 a.m. CHST July 20, 2018.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM, DR-4235-MP

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING THE SECTION 106 REVIEW AND UTILIZATION OF TREATMENT MEASURES TO RESOLVE ADVERSE EFFECTS TO AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE ON KANNAT TABLA ROAD ON THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN, UNDER FEMA'S HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM- SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT

Typhoon Soudelor impacted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in August of 2015, resulting in the federally declared disaster FEMA-4235-DR. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is issuing this public notice as a part of its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 as amended. This notice applies to activities carried out by FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMG) which is authorized by §404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

FEMA's HMG Program provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster. FEMA received an application for funding from the CNMI Department of Public Works for drainage improvements intended to mitigate flooding and erosion along Kannat Tabla Road on the Island of Saipan (Undertaking). The Undertaking will involve drainage and road improvements associated with the collection of storm water runoff from the road and conveyance to the existing CMS Quarry, where it is expected to infiltrate.

The Section 106 implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800, require FEMA, as the funding agency, to identify if any properties within the project area are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); to assess the effects the undertaking will have on historic properties; and to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects.

In advance of approving this undertaking, FEMA conducted preliminary consultations regarding the scope of historic property identification requirements between the CNMI Historic Preservation Office (HPO) Personnel, and Southeastern Archaeological Research Inc. (SEARCH), working on behalf of FEMA. An Archaeological Research Design was developed in compliance with the requirements of the CNMI Historic Preservation Act of 1982 (Public Law 3-39), Section 106 of the NHPA, and consultation with the CNMI-HPO in accordance with the "Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Historic Preservation Officer, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management" (PA) Stipulation II.C.

An archaeological survey of the area of potential effects resulted in the identification and documentation of archaeological site SP-1-1047, a prehistoric ceramic and shell midden, which was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D for its potential to yield information regarding the temporal association, nature, and function of prehistoric habitation settlements within Saipan's interior upland environments.

FEMA determined the ground disturbance necessary for the drainage improvements will adversely effect site SP-1-1047, and recommended a Treatment Plan in the form of archaeological data recovery prior to implementation of the project, and monitoring by a qualified archaeologist during all ground disturbing construction related to the Kannat Tabla. The CNMI-HPO has concurred with this recommendation. FEMA is also inviting members of the public to comment on the FEMA-funded action and provide any comments and suggestions including ways to mitigate the adverse effects.

Comments and requests regarding the Treatment Measures may be submitted to FEMA for a 14-day period beginning June 20, 2018 and may be submitted via email at: FEMA-RIX-EHP-Documents@fema.dhs.gov or by regular mail. Mailed comments and requests must be postmarked by July 10, 2018 and sent to:

Alessandro Amaglio, Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA, 94607



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO.: RFP18-DCCA/CCDF-120

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 06, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

TO PROVIDE COACHING AND OTHER ON-SITE INDIVIDUALIZED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND TRAINING WORKSHOPS ACTIVITIES FOR CCDF PROVIDERS TO SUPPORT THE CNMI QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (QRIS) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301 CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MS. MARIBEL LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIA EMAIL TO ccdf.maribelloste@gmail.com OR VIA FACSIMILE TO (670)664-2547, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JULY 23, 2018.**

MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE, BUILDING 1347, ASCENSION COURT IN CAPITAL HILL, SAIPAN ON **JULY 27, 2018 AT 10:00 A.M.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-70 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

Hawaii bans sale of sunscreens with coral-harming chemicals

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii Gov. David Ige on Tuesday signed legislation that will ban the sale of sunscreens containing two chemicals believed to harm coral reefs.

The move makes Hawaii the first U.S. state to enact a ban on oxybenzone and octinoxate.

“This is just one small step toward protecting and restoring the resiliency of Hawaii’s reefs,” Ige said at a signing ceremony for the bill, which takes effect in 2021.

Ige said the state would also need to continue other efforts to protect coral, including fighting invasive species, pollution from land runoff and climate change.

Sunscreen containing oxybenzone and octinoxate will only be available to those with a prescription from a physician. Others will have to buy sunscreens without these chemicals or bring their own sunscreen with them to Hawaii.

Scientists have found the two substances can be toxic to coral reefs, which are a vital part of the ocean ecosystem and a popular draw for tourists.

State Sen. Roz Baker, who represents south and west Maui, said the bill has enormous significance because coral is such a fundamental part of a larger ecosystem important to the health of the planet.

Critics say there aren’t enough independent scientific studies supporting the asser-



AP

Hawaii Gov. David Ige, center, and surrounded by lawmakers, displays legislation he signed in Honolulu on Tuesday, July 3, 2018, banning the sale of sunscreens containing two chemicals believed to harm coral reefs.

Native leaders from Hawaiian homelands to convene

KAPOLEI, Hawaii—Native leaders from around the state, will come together on July 14 and 15 at the 2018 Homestead Leadership Summit. Hosted by the SCHHA, the oldest and largest coalition of experts and self-governing homestead associations dedicated to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921, the summit agenda includes beneficiary rights and functions under the HHCA, as well as sharing sources of needed capital to build out homestead association projects.

“It’s a really cool summit,” said Robin Puanani Danner, the SCHHA elected chairman since the fall of 2015. “Our Oahu leaders, Iwalani McBrayer and Jodi Akau, from Kaupea and Kanehili homesteads are really creating a summit that participants will enjoy both in information and fellowship.”

The summit will be held at the Hampton Inn at the shopping mall built on trust lands in Kapolei, with a theme of

“Our Land ~ Our People ~ Our Future.”

“Our two homestead associations are members of the SCHHA here in the Kapolei region, and we are looking forward to welcoming homesteaders from Oahu, from Molokai, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii island to our home,” said Iwalani McBrayer, SCHHA policy director of residential homesteading, and the vice chairman of the Homestead Housing Authority nonprofit.

Summit registration has hit maximum capacity at the Hampton Inn meeting space.

“It’s clear that there is a lot of energy and desire in the homesteads to push progress forward,” Danner said. “Our SCHHA executive council knows from the overwhelming interest in this summit, that we must conduct Homestead Summits on every island, and we will.”

One of the action items on the last day of the summit is to discuss the governor’s race between Colleen Hana-

busa and David Ige, to get homesteaders into the voting booth on August 11 in the primary election.

“The governor is at the absolute top of every state agency, including the one that impacts us the most—the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,” said Sherri Cummings, SCHHA Native Rights Policy director. “This election cycle has huge consequences for our homestead community, whether we will flourish the next 4 years or see very little accomplished. The governor’s race is where action or inaction will be the order of the day!”

For more information about the 2018 Homestead Leadership Summit, contact SCHHA.associations.com. Attachment lists lead sponsors for the Summit.

SCHHA is the oldest and largest coalition of homestead associations unified to protect and advocate for the interests of beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921. (PR)

Leaders need to act quickly to save what coral world has left, he said.

“We know the tide is against us. We’ve got limited amount of time,” Lee said.

TARAWA, Kiribati

—Government agencies and domestic shipping operators agreed to practice ship safety and energy efficient operations in the maritime sector at the conclusion of the four-day workshop on safe and energy efficient operation of ships held in Tarawa, Kiribati from June 19 to 22 2018 in a joint collaboration of the Pacific Island Domestic Ship Safety project in conjunction with the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre in the Pacific project.

Kiribati covers 811 square kilometres consisting of 20 inhabited islands with a population of 113,000 people, 44.3 percent in urban and 55.7 percent in rural areas. The vast sea area is serviced by more than 56 registered vessels providing domestic services between the islands making the reliability, safety and efficiency of maritime transport an absolute priority. Domestic shipping services are the only, and most affordable means of transportation to provide connectivity between islands that support the socio-economic needs of communities.

The acting officer in charge of the Ministry of Information, Communications, Transport and Tourism Development and Director of Marine, Capt. Ruoikabuti Tioon, welcomed the Pacific Community team

and added that “the maritime transport sector is vital for Kiribati and it is important for Kiribati to take advantage of the safety and ship energy efficiency operations workshops and build capacity for climate mitigation. I thank MTCC-Pacific for coming here and hope they will continue to provide this kind of training to inform and educate technical staff in Kiribati.”

Tiantaake Mariana, the interim president of the newly established Kiribati Women in Maritime Association expressed her deep appreciation to SPC and participants attending the workshop and for recognizing the role of women as resource and stakeholder partners in the shipping industry. Representatives from the Marine Department, Kiribati Port Authority, Kiribati Oil Company and Maritime Police were also present in this four-day event.

The training and workshop discussions revealed that profitability was the main driver for energy efficiency. Improving ship energy efficiency can improve profitability but maritime regulations on ship energy efficiency management plan can also accelerate the speed of implementation.

SPC’s Ship Safety Audit Adviser, Capt. Omirete Tabu-

reka, reiterated the need for the ship operators to adopt the Safe Operations Plan integrated with the Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan for safe and efficient sea transportation in saying that “sea transportation is essential for the livelihood of the people living on the outer islands and the ship owners and captains have to take charge to provide a reliable, safe and energy efficient service.”

MTCC-Pacific is part of the Global MTCC Network, a project implemented by the International Maritime Organization, and funded by the European Union, to build the capacity of developing countries for climate mitigation in the maritime industry and thereby contributing to Kiribati’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and broader Sustainable Development Goals.

During the next week, MTCC-Pacific will follow in the footsteps of the PIDSS program and together work with ships under the PIDSS program to develop safe and efficient shipping. This is critical to ensure that ships are operating safely by adopting the best available and appropriate safe management practices and thereby make it easier to adopt complementary energy efficient operations. (PR)

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Remembering the second founding of America on this Fourth of July

Each Fourth of July, Americans are reminded that the freedom enjoyed today began with visionary hard-scramble colonists tossing off the yoke of the British Crown. This year, our editorial page is reflecting not only on those patriots of July 4, 1776, but on a consequential battle that occurred in early July almost a century later — and the nation-changing words that grew out of it.

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought in 1863 on the three days prior to July Fourth. Months later, President Abraham Lincoln dedicated a cemetery at Gettysburg with a short address — but one both poetic and momentous — that would culminate in what scholars describe as “the second founding” of America.

These are the words Lincoln spoke Nov. 19, 1863, at the Pennsylvania site where so many sacrificed to preserve the American experiment in democracy:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate — we cannot consecrate — we cannot hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

The Battle of Gettysburg marked the turning point in the Civil War, a conflict that threatened to shred the fragile Union. Lincoln’s words five months later were even more consequential as he talked of a nation fractured by slavery and backsliding from its founding principles.

In the seven years following the speech — which Lincoln wrongly predicted no one would remember — the nation passed the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution. These three changes abolished slavery, defined citizenship, guaranteed due process and equal protection, and affirmed the right to vote regardless of race, color or servitude.

Indeed, those amendments fulfilled Lincoln’s Gettysburg promise of “a new birth of freedom” — a second founding. It’s difficult to fathom what our nation would look like today without these life-changing laws.

African-Americans didn’t receive full protection under federal law until the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights of 1965, a century after Lincoln’s speech. Women didn’t get the right to vote until 1920. Each was a hard-fought

See AMERICA on Next Page



Nothing more patriotic than standing up for US values

“O h say can you save?” entices Groupon in its e-mail solicitation.

That might be one way people think they’re showing patriotism around Independence Day: by re-enacting their commitment to capitalist consumerism. But I prefer Planned Parenthood Voters of Iowa’s re-enactment of another longstanding American tradition: Protest. The PAC protested the Iowa governor’s signing of a post-six-week abortion ban, among other things, at Monday’s Yankee Doodle Pops concert outside the Iowa Statehouse.

About the same time, against a backdrop of fireworks, partygoers gathered in a high-rise condo overlooking the Capitol to hear Reynolds’ Democratic opponent, Fred Hubbell, talk about a change in leadership.

Some think it unseemly to pollute Independence Day celebrations with politics. But really, there’s nothing more patriotic, especially when it involves standing up for America’s values. And there are a lot that need standing up for.

Women’s rights are at stake at both the state and federal levels as the president prepares to appoint a Supreme Court justice who could tip the balance against legal abortion. But across the country, women are responding by marching, speaking out and running for office.

Migrant children as young as 3 years old, who were separated from their parents at the border and sleeping in cages, are now expected to appear alone before judges. But Americans are swarming to the border to volunteer on migrants’ behalf, and turning out by the hundreds of thousands at Families Belong Together rallies.

Climate change is real and last week’s extreme rainfall that flooded Iowans out of their homes is evidence. But with climate-change deniers in the political majority, policies to limit environmental pollution are being reversed and the president is pulling the U.S. out of the international Paris climate accords. Still, innovative grass-roots campaigns to save the planet are mushrooming. One called #StopSucking aims to ban plastic straws, an estimated 500 million of which are used every day. Spearheaded by a California woman, the campaign uses humorous TV ads featuring celebrities professing “I suck” and vowing to stop using the straws.

Americans are innovative, and some of our problems have simple solutions, but we’re not using them. Tens of thousands of Americans are dying from opioid overdoses. But insurance companies in some states won’t cover a drug called Buprenorphine. According to NBC Nightly News, the drug has been 80 percent effective at curbing the addiction in France, where it is free. Where are we on that?

Tens of thousands of people are dying from gun violence, the five victims at the Capital Gazette in Maryland just the latest chilling example. We could end that epidemic by passing meaningful gun laws.

I asked a couple I respect, who love celebrations and fireworks, how they were feeling about America on the eve of its birthday. They’re white native Iowans, successful professionals ranging from a few years to a few decades older than me. The

By REKHA BASU

Des Moines Register

Rekha Basu is a columnist for the Des Moines Register



husband was raised Republican – in the Bob Ray mold – and the wife Democratic.

The husband recalled his childhood July Fourths, when his father would fly flags attached by suction cups to his car. He remembered the fierce sense of patriotism he felt at age 7, when the U.S. got into World War II, and Americans were united. He’d retained his faith in the system even through controversial presidencies like Nixon’s and Reagan’s, and controversial wars like Vietnam. He saw leaders held responsible for their wrongdoing.

But that faith ended, he said, after George W. Bush led us into the second Iraq War under false pretenses, and the ones who paid for that were those killed and their families.

But this presidency is more destructive than any we’ve seen before, he says. Now he wonders if we wouldn’t be better off with a parliamentary style of government, where less power was vested in one person.

His wife always found security in the three branches of government keeping each other in check. Now she despairs at Congress’ refusal to keep the president in check. She’s ashamed and outraged by the border separations and attempts by government to control women’s fertility.

So she marches and makes daily phone calls to her two U.S. senators and one representative to express her concerns. And she takes pride in the version of America shown by all the protesters and the new wave of women running for office to uphold its responsibility to the vulnerable and its openness to newcomers.

The frustration I hear from so many people like this couple is grounded not just in Trump but in the entire apparatus that props him up. That includes the 90 percent of Republicans who say they’d re-elect him even as he attacks minorities, Muslims, women and the press, lurches in his positions and tells lies he later contradicts.

“If you can’t say anything good,” goes the saying, “say nothing.” But please, on this historic day of the nation’s birth, say something. Talk to the friends and neighbors you’re picnicking or parading with. Talk about the proudest moments and movements in America’s history and how we’ve lived up to them, or have not, since. Talk about what worries you.

If your concerns include the gun violence epidemic, say something about it and how you’d stem it. Or talk about how to close the growing gap between rich and poor, educated and under-educated. Let’s make today matter by envisioning the kind of country we want and pledging to stay involved till we get it. Then America will have a happy birthday.

The power of praise, pride to lift, inspire

Was there a time when hearing the simple phrase “I’m proud of you” made a significant difference in your life?

My family was long on love and short on praise. There were smooches and hugs and pats on the head, but neither my older brother nor I recall that any of the relatives in the immediate family (about 119 of them) ever said, “I’m proud of you, kid.”

They could have said it in three different languages, too, given that the crowd spoke Italian, English and the French of the Quebecois. But they decided that if we caught any of that nasty American self-esteem going around, we might become infected with a sense of self-worth.

Who knows what might happen if a child felt good about himself or herself? He might become arrogant enough to want to get his own job and not go into the family business, or she might want to plan her career instead of her wedding.

They might feel secure enough to move more than 20 minutes from the family house and not feel compelled to call the minute they got home to say they were “safe,” having traveled such a distance. They might take jobs out of town, get an education out of state or find a partner who didn’t slide into the prefab cut-out the family decided would be the best fit.

Pride wasn’t considered a sin, necessarily, but it was a stain: something you’d want to wipe off as soon as you realized it was there.

For example, when I was on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” back

in the 1990s, I was feeling pretty good about how I did; I appeared on the program three times, all connected to the books I’d written. I knew enough not to tell my relatives in advance, but one of my aunts happened to catch me on TV and called.

I was surprised, and for about two full seconds, I was pleased. Then in a confiding voice, my aunt said, “You sounded fine but it’s too bad you looked so heavy. It’s really true about the camera adding 20 pounds.”

Bull’s-eye, Aunt Sally. I had been proud of myself for sounding funny, being articulate and not falling down on the set despite wearing heels, but you managed to deflate instantaneously my sense of accomplishment by focusing on the fact that my too-tight suit made me look as if I were in the larval stage. Thanks a lot.

Our family’s inability to show pride or offer praise without caveats and sarcasm taught my brother and me the importance of being generous and authentic in recognizing the achievements of others — and each other. When Hugo tells me he’s proud of me, I know he means it; he knows I mean it when I say it about him.

I never say “I’m proud of you” lightly to family members, to my students, to my colleagues or to my friends, yet I have the good fortune to be able to say it often.

I’m proud when a former student gets a piece of writing published; I’m proud when retired colleagues who have put off making a will finally put their affairs in order; I’m proud when a friend struggling with depression chooses to re-evaluate her

By GINA BARRECA

The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.



treatment options; I’m proud when my pals phone their senators, write letters to congress and make sure their voices are heard.

A friend from college, Pat McClendon, tells a more encouraging family story: “When my grandfather, John Ferguson, who was born in 1898 in North Carolina and received no formal education past the eighth grade because if you were black you were told ‘that was all the education you needed,’ attended my graduation from Dartmouth in 1976, he said, ‘I’m very proud of you. You have done what I could not.’”

It made Pat proud, she writes, “And not only for my own accomplishments.”

Like empathy, compassion or love, pride in no way diminishes the one who gives it.

Pride isn’t about seizing victory in a competition but valuing a triumph over adversity. Authentic pride acknowledges a sense of common achievement.

Pride isn’t about grabbing the spotlight; it’s about sharing the illumination.

Parsing the ‘pursuit of happiness’

The beauty of all self-evident truths is that, by definition, we do not need to explain why they are true. Our annual celebrations of American independence fit neatly into this mental zone of confident presumptions. To the extent that we think about it at all, the Fourth of July is the time for summer vacation schedules to start, fireworks to appear at dusk and patriotic rhetoric to evaporate amid the airbursts.

It therefore might seem almost rude to suggest that we spend a few minutes asking ourselves what we are celebrating. The succinct answer is that we are honoring the 242nd anniversary of America’s birth as the first nation-sized republic in the modern world.

The values on which our republic was founded were proclaimed in 36 words that, over the years, have achieved iconic status as the American Creed. Here they are:

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Thomas Jefferson wrote these words sometime in mid-June

1776 in his Philadelphia apartment at 7th and Market streets on a portable desk with a quill pen.

Historians have parsed their meaning in countless books over the ensuing two centuries: searching for their sources in the French Enlightenment or Scottish Enlightenment; questioning their utopian implications; criticizing their inherently elusive claims to visionary values that float above the world like verbal clouds; noticing that the portable desk on which they were composed was built by a former slave and that the author of those words was a dedicated racist.

But in the end, all such critics have found themselves shouting into the wind. For Jefferson’s words have levitated out of the historical context in which they were written to become the expansive mandate for the liberal tradition in modern America.

When the feminist movement was born at Seneca Falls in 1848, the manifesto began with the claim that “all men and women are created equal.” When Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address in 1863, he cited Jefferson’s words — “the proposition that all men are created equal,” to make the Civil War a fight to end slavery. When

By JOSEPH J. ELLIS

Los Angeles Times

Joseph J. Ellis is the author of “Revolutionary Summer” and “Founding Brothers.” His latest book, “American Dialogue: The Founders and Us,” will be published this fall.



Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I have a dream” speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, he announced that he was collecting on a “promissory note” written by Jefferson. Beyond our shores, the Vietnamese constitution, written by Ho Chi Minh, begins “We hold these truths to be self evident.”

In the mid-summer of 2018, during the increasingly divisive presidency of Donald Trump, do we still believe these words? Do we believe any truths are self-evident? Instead of spending our holiday on the Fourth contemplating the likely destination of LeBron James or the latest Kardashian rumor, let me propose that we discuss those questions.

The conversation might begin with a more specific focus: What did that hallowed phrase “pursuit of happiness” mean to Jefferson, and what does it mean to us?

Jefferson borrowed the words from George Mason, who had used the phrase in the preface to his draft of the Virginia Constitution a few weeks earlier. In the original trinity proclaimed by John Locke in his Second Treatise on Government, “life, liberty, and property” were the enshrined rights. By replacing “property” with Mason’s “pursuit of happiness,” Jefferson was making an implicit anti-slavery statement, depriving slave-owners of the claim that owning slaves — property — was a natural right protected in the founding document.

The Civil War removed slavery from the national agenda, leaving “pursuit of happiness” to float free and become a vague version of the American promise that meant pretty much what anyone wished it to mean.

Do we believe that Jefferson’s felicitous phrase now, in 2018, has economic implications? Does the self-evident right to pursue happiness entail the right to a living wage? Or affordable health-care? Does the decline of the middle class mean that our collective happiness as a people is at risk? Do Jefferson’s magic words still possess the power to provoke some intellectual fireworks?

AMERICA

From Page 10

victory for dignity and liberty.

Though freedom has been under stress many times and in many ways since then, our nation has emerged each time on a path toward a better nation.

The Gettysburg Address, emphasizing both the principles of human equality and the preservation of that Union created in 1776, hearkened back to the Declaration of Independence. Let it remind us today that the steadfast quest toward a more perfect union must never waver.

Hot and cold foods for summer moods

‘Veritas ex gustu’—Latin for ‘the truth of taste’

ICE KEKE A COLD BAG IN TANAPAG

Aesha and B.J. chewed their ice keke fast not just a thing from their childhood past before they swallowed to direct it south they crushed the cold ice in their mouth they didn’t care how long it would last

Oscar and Clarissa ate their ice keke slow didn’t want all that cold colored ice to go they would squeeze it out of the plastic swallow little by little not quite so drastic sometimes two at a time thanks Uncle Joe

Tanya and Manet always took their time they’d even crush it in the bag sometime then swallow the slush at their own leisure enjoying the all year round sweet pleasure their favorite flavors were orange and lime

when ice kekes are gone its always nice to switch over to snowcones or shave ice

HOT PEPPER SAUCE

so many depend upon a hot pepper sauce splashed without restraint on some fried chicken

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

WHEN RIPE WATERMELON

when ripe watermelon bursts its rind and juicy red flesh can be seen all the fruits of summer come to mind and watermelon is the queen the crowning glory of every picnic just what every BBQ needs thump for ripeness to get the right pick have fun spitting out all the seeds

FINADENE’ GIYA FIESTA

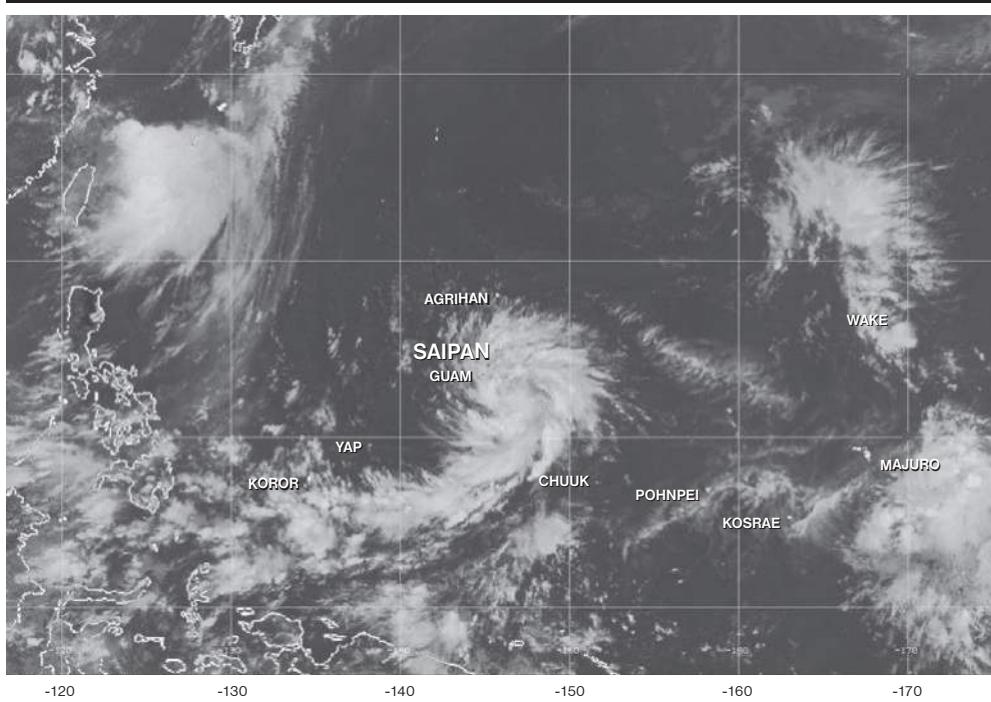
gayera agupa pupuenge guaha bula finadene’ falak para talanon yan tinola guaha bula setbesa yan cola

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Damaging winds possible. East winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts to 45 mph becoming southeast in the afternoon.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 85° ▼ 78°	▲ 85° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:04 AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A Tropical Storm warning remains in effect for Guam, while a Tropical Storm Watch remains in effect for Rota, Tinian and Saipan. Winds will continue to increase through the day, with Tropical Storm winds likely for Guam by this afternoon and, if TD 10W continues on its current track, damaging winds are also possible for Rota later this afternoon and Tinian and Saipan by this evening.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85°	/	79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86°	/	79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87°	/	79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	88°	/	76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88°	/	76°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85°	/	80°

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57°	/	48°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	91°	/	72°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90°	/	82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87°	/	76°	
London	Partly Cloudy	82°	/	63°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84°	/	67°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	86°	/	79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57°	/	52°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87°	/	80°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	76°	
Osaka	Rain	79°	/	73°	
Paris	Showers	81°	/	61°	
Busan	Windy	73°	/	66°	
Rome	Sunny	88°	/	70°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	89°	/	71°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63°	/	56°	
Seoul	Thunderstorm	77°	/	63°	
Tokyo	Rain	81°	/	72°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	90°	/	77°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
 ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
 ■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
 ■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

12:41 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
7:03 AM	LOW TIDE	0.96
11:39 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.45
6:24 PM	LOW TIDE	0.31

DAY SUNRISE SUNSET

Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM

DAY MOONRISE MOONSET MOONRISE

Today	-	11:19 AM	11:50 PM
Friday	-	12:09 PM	-
Saturday	12:30 AM	1:00 PM	-
Sunday	1:11 AM	1:53 PM	-
Monday	1:56 AM	2:50 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 8:45am 9:30am Daily				UA117 7:00am 7:45am Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:10am 6:00am 1				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily			
LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily				LJ651 9:10pm 2:40am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
7C3401 4:00pm 7:45pm Daily				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648 5:40am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7				3U8647 10:20pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396 7:30am 12:00pm 1				JD395 8:25am 3:30pm 4			
JD396 4:50pm 10:00pm 4				JD395 9:55pm 5:00am+1 7			
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6				3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5			
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764 1:30am 6:35am 3, 5, 7							

Business

FAA says it won't regulate amount of airline legroom

By DAVID KOENIG
AP AIRLINES WRITER

Federal regulators have rejected the idea of setting minimum standards for airline seats and legroom as a safety measure.

The Federal Aviation Administration said Tuesday that it saw no immediate safety issue that requires new regulations. It cited seven recent accidents in which passengers were able to evacuate.

The FAA was responding to a group called FlyersRights, which had gone to court to prod the agency to act.

FlyersRights said cramped planes combined with the larger size of today's passengers means that planes can't be evacuated in 90 seconds, as required.

"In the real world, people are taking a lot longer than 90 seconds to get out," Paul Hudson, a lawyer for the group, said in an interview. He said



AP

In this Jan. 26, 2016, file photo, economy class seating is shown on a new United Airlines Boeing 787-9 undergoing final configuration and maintenance work at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in Seattle.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

California revives 100-percent carbon-free energy bill

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California lawmakers on Tuesday revived a long-stalled proposal to set a goal of generating 100 percent of the state's energy from carbon-free sources. With other controversial and high-stakes energy legislation also moving forward, California lawmakers face an array of decisions with vast implications for the Western energy grid, the future of renewable power and consumers' electric bills. A state legislative committee sent the 100 percent clean energy bill to the full Assembly, setting up a vote later this year. The bill's revival is a tentative victory for its author, Democratic Sen. Kevin de Leon, who is waging an uphill battle to unseat Democratic U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein in the November election. De Leon fought aggressively to push the bill forward in the final days of last year's legislative session but was unsuccessful. The bill would bump up California's energy mandate, known as the renewable portfolio standard, from 50 percent to 60 percent by 2030. That energy would have to come from specific renewable resources including

US allows ZTE to resume some business

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. authorities are allowing China's ZTE Corp. to resume some business with American companies, temporarily easing part of a ban imposed over the tech giant's exports to Iran and North Korea. The Commerce Department's order this week follows a settlement under which ZTE agreed to pay a \$1 billion fine, replace its executive team and hire U.S. compliance officers. ZTE will be allowed to conduct business with American companies to maintain existing telecom networks and mobile phones and to support security features, according to the order by the department's Bureau of Industry and Security. That permission lasts through Aug. 1. The company headquartered in the southern city of Shenzhen suspended most operations after it was banned in April from buying U.S. components and technology. ZTE pleaded guilty in March 2017 and agreed to pay a \$1.19 billion penalty for having shipped equipment to Iran and North Korea in violation of U.S. regulations. The company prom-

ised to discipline employees involved in the scheme, but the Commerce Department said this week they were paid bonuses instead.

Barnes & Noble terminates CEO for company policy violations

NEW YORK (AP)—Barnes & Noble Inc. is terminating CEO Demos Parneros after barely a year on the job for violating company policies. The New York bookseller said Tuesday Parneros' termination has nothing to do with financial reporting or potential fraud. It didn't provide other specifics about which policies Parneros violated. Parneros was appointed CEO in April 2017 after joining Barnes & Noble as chief operating officer in November 2016. He won't receive severance or remain on the company's board. Three executives will lead Barnes & Noble while the company searches for a permanent replacement. Leonard Riggio, the company founder and chairman, will also be involved in management. Parneros was Barnes & Nobles' fifth CEO in less than a decade. Law firm Paul, Weiss advised its board of directors on the move.

the FAA relied on tests from the 1990s using people who "don't" resemble the profile of American passengers today."

The FAA turned down FlyersRights once before, but last year a federal appeals court ordered the agency to take another look at the issue, saying the FAA had relied on outdated or irrelevant tests and studies. Hudson said the group may go back to the appeals court to force the FAA to act.

A couple of decades ago, the distance between one seatback and the seatback in the next

row—what airlines call "pitch"—measured about 35 inches in economy class. Today on some planes it is as tight as 28 inches, although thinner seat cushions offset some of the shrinkage. Seat width has changed far less, if at all.

Airplane manufacturers submitted videos of evacuation tests to argue that new rules are not needed. Boeing said that in 1996 it tested planes with 351 passengers and 28 inches of pitch, and the results met FAA evacuation standards.

Jeffrey Gardlin, a safety engineer who has worked for FAA for 36 years, said large passengers can take longer to escape exits, so the agency sets minimum sizes for overwing exits. But, he said, size doesn't make much difference in the time it takes to get from a seat to the aisle.

In an affidavit, Gardlin cited seven accidents since 2015 in which passengers were able to escape planes designed to meet current standards. Some passengers were hurt during evacuations but none died in fires, even those that destroyed the plane. He said there were no reports that seat size or row pitch slowed any of the evacuations.

Tuesday's decision is not necessarily the final word on aircraft seats.

A House-passed bill would direct the FAA to set minimum seat sizes, although it leaves the decision on the exact measures to the agency. The bill is pending in the Senate.

Last month, the Transportation Department's inspector general announced a review of the FAA's evacuation standards, noting that today's planes have more seats, passengers are larger, and they have more carry-on bags.

The inspector general was responding to a request from members of the House Transportation Committee, which followed a confused evacuation of an American Airlines jet in Chicago after an engine fire.

Canada presses US to resume NAFTA renegotiation talks

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)—With Mexico's presidential election out of the way, Canada is renewing its push to speed up the NAFTA renegotiation this summer.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland has said that she spoke with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer six times last week and that she wants NAFTA talks to kick into a higher gear this summer.

U.S. President Donald Trump seems in no rush to sign a new NAFTA deal. In a Fox News interview that aired Sunday, Trump said he was holding out until after the fall's midterm election to get a better deal for the U.S.

The effort to restart stalled negotiations comes after the election of leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador as president. He said he supports the continued renegotiation of NAFTA and wants his own team of experts to be part of the talks before he takes office Dec. 1.

On Monday, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke with Lopez Obrador by phone. The two discussed "mutually beneficial economic and trading relationship between the two countries," Trudeau's office said in a statement.

The renewed call for negotiations also comes as Canada and the U.S. are swapping punitive tariffs on steel, aluminum and a host of consumer



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
24,174.82
-132.36
-0.54%

S&P
2,713.22
-13.49
-0.49%

NASDAQ
7,502.67
-65.01
-0.86%

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.3515	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8423	Russian Ruble	63.2406
British Pound	0.7565	Indian Rupee	68.6881	Singapore Dollar	1.3617
Canadian Dollar	1.3129	Japanese Yen	110.4270	South Korean Won	1094.21
Chinese Yuan	6.5088	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0000	Swiss Franc	0.9913
Euro	0.8574	New Zealand Dollar	1.4764	Taiwan Dollar	30.0031
		Philippine Peso	52.3466	Thailand Baht	33.0525

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Nation

Exploding wildfires in US West derail holiday plans

DENVER (AP)—A growing wildfire destroyed more than 100 homes in the Colorado mountains, while other blazes across the parched U.S. West kept hundreds of other homes under evacuation orders and derailed holiday plans.

Authorities announced late Monday that a fire near Fort Garland, about 205 miles (330 kilometers) southwest of Denver, had destroyed 104 homes in a mountain housing development started by multimillionaire publisher Malcolm Forbes in the 1970s. The damage toll could rise because the burn area is still being surveyed.

Tamara Estes' family cabin, which her parents had built in 1963 using wood and rocks from the land, was among the homes destroyed.

"I think it's sinking in more now. But we're just crying," she said. "My grandmother's antique dining table and her hutch are gone."

"It was a sacred place to us," she added.

Andy and Robyn Kuehler watched flames approach their cabin via surveillance video from their primary residence in Nebraska.

"We just got confirmation last night that the house was completely gone. It's ... a very sickening feeling watching the fire coming towards the house," the couple wrote in an email Tuesday.

The blaze, labeled the Spring Fire, is one of six large wildfires burning in Colorado and is the largest at 123 square miles (318 square kilometers) — about five times the size of Manhattan. While investigators believe it was started by a spark from a fire pit, other fires, like one that began burning in wilderness near Fair-



AP

Craig Hotshots firefighters take a break from battling the Weston Pass Fire, Monday, July 2, 2018, near Fairplay, Colo.

play, were started by lightning.

Nearly 60 large, active blazes are burning across the West, including nine in New Mexico and six each in Utah and California, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

In Utah, authorities have evacuated 200 to 300 homes because of a growing wildfire near a popular fishing reservoir southeast of Salt Lake City amid hot temperatures and high winds. Several structures have been lost since the fire started Sunday, but it's unclear how many, said Jason Curry of the Utah Division of Forest, Fire and State Lands.

Darren Lewis and his extended family planned to spend the Fourth of July at a

cabin built nearly 50 years ago by his father and uncle in a wilderness area nestled between canyons and near a mountain river.

Instead, Lewis and his family will spend the holiday nervously waiting to hear if a half-century of family memories go up in smoke because of the fire, which has grown to 47 square miles (122 square kilometers).

"There's a lot of history and memories that go into this cabin," said Lewis, 44, of Magna, Utah. "The cabin we could rebuild, but the trees that we love would be gone. We're just hoping that the wind blows the other way."

Meanwhile, a wind-fueled

wildfire in Northern California that continues to send a thick layer of smoke and ash south of San Francisco was threatening more than 900 buildings.

The massive blaze was choking skies with ash and smoke, prompting some officials to cancel Fourth of July fireworks shows and urge people to stay indoors to protect themselves from the unhealthy air.

On July 4, Americans celebrate their union, rue divisions

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans are marking Independence Day with parades, fireworks and, for some, a renewed sense of pride in their 242-year-old nation. For others, a sense of a United States divided weighs heavy on its quintessential holiday.

From New York to New Mexico, July Fourth events

will celebrate what Americans have in common. Festivities are as elaborate as Macy's July Fourth fireworks show, as gulp-worthy as Nathan's Famous hot dog eating contest and as easygoing as backyard barbecues. But in a country roiled with debate over what it means to be an American, there are even competing televised Independence Day events in the nation's capital.

The country's longest-running live national July Fourth TV tradition — PBS' broadcast of music and fireworks from the U.S. Capitol's West Lawn — is facing new counterprogramming from the White House, which is hosting its own concert

At least 2,500 people have been told to evacuate as the so-called County Fire continues to spread, said Anthony Brown, a spokesman with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Brown said the blaze, which started Saturday and is surging through rugged terrain northwest of Sacramento, has grown to 113 square miles (294 square kilometers) amid hot and dry weather expected

throughout the day. It was 15 percent contained Tuesday.

"The weather is better than what we had over the weekend. But it's still hampering our efforts and it's an area of concern," he said.

So far this year, wildfires have burned 4,200 square miles in the United States, according to the fire center. That's a bit below last year's acreage to date — which included the beginning of California's devastating fire season — but above the 10-year average of 3,600 square miles.

Because of the Independence Day holiday, authorities are also concerned about the possibility of campfires or fireworks starting new fires because of the dry, hot conditions. In Colorado, many communities have canceled firework displays, and a number of federal public lands and counties have some degree of fire restrictions in place, banning things like campfires or smoking outdoors.

In Arizona, large swaths of national forests and state trust land have been closed since before Memorial Day. Some cities have canceled fireworks displays because of extreme fire danger.

In New Mexico, all or part of three national forests remain closed because of the threat of wildfire, putting a damper on holiday camping plans. The forests that are open have strict rules, especially when it comes to fireworks.

will go ahead in such places as Denver and Colorado Springs.

In Boston, the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular features singer-songwriter Rachel Platten, the Indigo Girls, Rhianon Giddens and Broadway legend Rita Moreno. It's televised on local station WHDH-TV and streamed on several sites.

In another July Fourth tradition, new U.S. citizens will be sworn in at locales around the country.

They'll pledge allegiance to a country where some people lament that the ability to debate respectfully the toughest issues of the day seems hopelessly lost. For Brad Messier, a chef in Portland, Maine, the holiday "seems to illustrate the glaring divides that we have."

"How much does going and seeing fireworks really bring people together?" he asks.

But in rural Shelby County, Alabama, retired truck driver Floyd Champion views these as the best of times in America.

"I love the holiday because it's our independence," he said.

Trump praises service members during charity dinner in W.Va.

WHITE SPRINGS, W.Va. (AP)—President Donald Trump celebrated active-duty service members and veterans during a military tribute Tuesday on the eve of Independence Day.

Delivering remarks at a "Salute to Service" charity dinner at the Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, Trump praised "Americans of every generation" who have served in the armed forces.

The event was held in conjunction with the PGA Tour's Greenbrier Classic, which has been rechristened as "AMilitary Tribute at The Greenbrier." The venerable resort is owned by the state's Republican governor, presidential ally Jim Justice.

Highlighting his efforts to boost spending for the military, Trump said, "As the golfers can tell you, the stronger we get, the less likely it is that we will have to use it."

An avid golfer, Trump praised the "incredible athletes" in attendance.

"These are unbelievably talented people," he said. "They're talented in their mind and in their body. Their muscles are strong, but their mind has to be stronger."

The event marked Trump's latest appearance in a state he won by more than 40 percentage points in 2016. Its Democratic senator, Joe Manchin, is seeking re-election.

Trump has criticized Manchin for voting against tax cuts

the president enacted last year. Manchin is among Democrats with whom Trump recently discussed the vacancy on the Supreme Court.

Trump previewed his upcoming nomination to fill the vacancy, saying he "hit a home run" with Justice Neil Gorsuch, whom he picked for the nation's high court last year. "We're going to hit a home run here," he said.

The president also criticized calls from some Democrats to abolish U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the federal agency charged with detaining and deporting unauthorized immigrants.

"We're not abandoning ICE and we're not abandoning law enforcement," he said.

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will celebrate what Americans have in common. Festivities are as elaborate as Macy's July Fourth fireworks show, as gulp-worthy as Nathan's Famous hot dog eating contest and as easygoing as backyard barbecues. But in a country roiled with debate over what it means to be an American, there are even competing televised Independence Day events in the nation's capital.

The country's longest-running live national July Fourth TV tradition — PBS' broadcast of music and fireworks from the U.S. Capitol's West Lawn — is facing new counterprogramming from the White House, which is hosting its own concert

and view of the National Park Service's fireworks show. Both shows feature different "American Idol" alums.

First lady Melania Trump

said in a statement that the

White House show would allow Americans to "tune in

from their homes and be part

of the festivities."

PBS declined to comment.

In New York, the Macy's

fireworks show over the East River promises 25 minutes of sparkle and "ahhhh," plus the

West Point Band and entertainers including Kelly Clarkson, Ricky Martin and Keith Urban on NBC's broadcast.

Earlier, competitive-eating titans will face off at Nathan's

Famous July Fourth hot dog

eating contest on Coney Island, televised by ESPN.

Meanwhile, some communities in the American West

have canceled their planned July Fourth fireworks because of high wildfire danger, and some others are doing drone light displays instead of pyrotechnics. But fireworks shows

Asia

Former Malaysian leader arrested, to be charged with graft

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak was arrested Tuesday by anti-graft investigators and will be charged over his alleged role in the multibillion-dollar looting of a state investment fund, officials said.

A government task force probing alleged theft and money laundering at the 1MDB state investment fund said Najib's arrest was linked to the suspicious transfer of 42 million ringgit (\$10.6 million) into his bank account from SRC International, a former 1MDB unit, using multiple intermediary companies.

It said in a brief statement that Najib will be brought to court on Wednesday to be charged, but didn't give details of the charges against him.

Najib's arrest comes nearly two months after his coalition's

stunning rejection by voters in a May 9 general election.

In a pre-recorded video posted on social media hours after his arrest, Najib apologized to Malaysians but remained defiant.

"I have done my best, but I realized it is not enough. I admit there are many weaknesses.... as a normal human being, I am not perfect but believe me, that the accusations against me and my family are not all true," he said. "I will face it with perseverance. Truly, Allah knows."

The new government has reopened investigations into 1MDB that were stifled under Najib's rule. Najib and his wife, who have been questioned over the SRC issue by the anti-graft agency, have been barred from leaving the country. Police have also seized jewelry and valuables valued at more than



AP

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, center, arrives at a court house in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Wednesday, July 4, 2018.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Soccer players speaking from Thai cave say they are healthy

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP)—The Thai soccer teammates stranded more than a week in a partly flooded cave said they were healthy on a video released Wednesday, as heavy rains forecast for later this week could complicate plans to safely extract them. The 12 boys and their coach are seen sitting with Thai navy SEALS in the dark cave with their visibly skinny faces illuminated by the beam of a flashlight. The boys, many wrapped in foil warming blankets, take turns introducing themselves, folding their hands together in a traditional greeting and saying their names and that they are healthy. The video lasting about a minute was recorded sometime Tuesday and was posted on the navy SEAL Facebook page Wednesday morning. The navy later released two more videos of the boys. The boys, aged 11-16, and their 25-year-old coach disappeared after they went exploring in the Tham Luang Nang Non cave in northern Chiang Rai province after a soccer game June 23. The teammates, who were trapped inside when heavy rains flooded the cave, were found by rescue divers late Monday night during a desperate search that drew assistance from experts around the globe.

Officials say the death toll from two days of heavy monsoon rains in eastern Pakistan has risen to 15. The heaviest rains seen in Lahore since 1980 continued into Wednesday, flooding streets and causing some residents to join small demonstrations against local authorities. Rescue officials and police confirmed the death toll, saying most deaths were caused by electrocution and homes caving in. Pakistan has long struggled to cope with the annual monsoon rains, which trigger flash floods and mud slides that destroy homes.

Passengers rescued from stricken Indonesia ferry; 31 dead

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Passengers trapped for a night on a stricken ferry off the Indonesian island of Sulawesi were rescued early Wednesday, officials said, as the death toll rose to 31 with three people missing and believed drowned inside the vessel. The latest in a succession of boat tragedies in Indonesia began on the same day that officials called off a search for 164 people presumed drowned when a wooden ferry sank on June 18 in a deep volcanic crater lake on the island of Sumatra. The Sulawesi ferry, with 139 passengers aboard according to its manifest, began sinking Tuesday afternoon in rough seas. In a desperate bid to save lives, the vessel's captain steered it toward shore, grounding it between 200-300 meters (985-655 feet) from land.

Death toll from heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan rises to 15

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—

1.1 billion ringgit (\$272 million) from properties linked to Najib, who has denied any wrongdoing.

Najib is expected to face more than 10 counts of committing criminal breach of trust linked to SRC International, Malaysia's Bernama news agency reported. It said Malaysia's new attorney general, Tommy Thomas, will head the prosecution in the case.

"This was the inevitable outcome when Najib lost the election and lost his political immunity," Bridget Welsh, a political science professor at John Cabot University in Rome, said in an email. "It shows the resolve of the new government to address previous abuses of power. It has been done judiciously so far and speaks to a needed reckoning for Malaysia and a key step toward a

cleaner governance."

Najib's daughter, Nooryana Najwa, praised her father as "kind, loving and gentle" and said he was emotionally and mentally strong.

"Even in the face of adversary today, he smiled, laughed and gave us all a hug ... worried more for the family than himself," she wrote on Instagram. "You can paint a man black but Allah knows. Allah

is not sleeping."

A statement by a spokesman for Najib, sent to the media and posted on social media, said his arrest was expected as the new government had "delivered the guilty verdict" against him in public. It slammed the charges to be made against Najib as "politically motivated and the result of political vengeance" by new Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

PH mayor killed a day after another was gunned down

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Another Philippine mayor was shot and killed Tuesday by an unidentified man in a road attack a day after a city mayor was gunned down in brazen back-to-back killings that prompted an opposition senator to call the country the "murder capital of Asia."

Mayor Ferdinand Bote of northern General Tinio town was leaving a government compound on board an SUV in northern Nueva Ecija province when a motorcycle-riding man shot him repeatedly with a pistol. The gunman escaped, police said.

On Monday, Mayor Antonio Halili was shot in the heart and killed while singing the national anthem with hundreds of employees in a flag-raising ceremony in his city of Tanauan, south of Manila. Videos taken by witnesses of the moment when an apparent single rifle shot felled the 72-year-

old mayor and sparked chaos have gone viral online and sparked new alarm.

Opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV blamed the killings on a "culture of violence" under President Rodrigo Duterte, whom he has criticized for a brutal anti-drug crackdown that has left thousands of mostly poor suspects dead in the last two years.

The Roman Catholic church has also raised alarm over the killings of three priests in recent months, including one who was shot in an altar while preparing to celebrate Mass in a northern village last month. At least four suspects are in police custody.

"No one is safe now," Trillanes said in a statement. "For someone who promised to restore peace and order in our country during the campaign, it is ironic for a lot of people that Duterte has actually turned the Philippines into the murder capital of Asia."

When he rose to power in 2016, the brash-talking Duterte expanded nationwide a deadly campaign against illegal drugs that he enforced as a longtime mayor of southern Davao city. Police say the current campaign has left more than 4,200 suspects dead in what they say were clashes with law enforcers, although human rights groups have blamed them for extrajudicial killings.

Duterte and the police deny a policy of condoning illegal killings and cite the deaths of many policemen in clashes as proof of the danger posed by drug suspects. But he has often threatened drug suspects with death and promised he would never allow policemen to rot in jail for doing their work in speeches critics say have helped promote impunity and foster abuses.

Duterte said without elaborating Monday that Halili's killing may have been linked

to illegal drugs. At least three mayors accused by his administration of involvement in the drug trade had been killed in raids by or clashes with the police.

Halili, who drew attention two years ago when he paraded drug suspects in a shame campaign, had strongly denied any links with illegal drug. Police said Tuesday the killer used a rifle and took position on a grassy hill about 160 meters (525 feet) from where Halili stood in a well-planned attack.

Bote, 57, was not in any list of drug suspects, according to the government's main anti-drug agency. Police did not immediately report any further details on his killing.

"We assure everyone that we would discharge the state obligation for every murder," presidential spokesman Harry Roque said. "We will spare no effort in getting to the bottom of this latest violent crime."

World

Watchdog: Syrian group uncovering IS mass graves needs help

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrians working to uncover mass graves in an area once ruled by the Islamic State group need help to preserve evidence, identify human remains and shed more light on the horrors perpetrated by the militants, an international watchdog said Tuesday.

Human Rights Watch said thousands of bodies—of civilians slain by the extremists, residents killed in airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition and of IS fighters—remain to be recovered in several mass graves in and around the city of Raqqa. The appeal came in a new report released Tuesday by the New York-based group.

Local members of the Raqqa Civil Council, a governing body set up by U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led forces, are “struggling to cope with the logistical challenges of collecting and organizing information” on the bodies uncovered and providing it to families searching for missing or dead relatives, HRW said.

Raqqa was the extremists’ de facto capital and the seat of their self-proclaimed caliphate, which at the height of their power in 2014 stretched across a third of both Syria and Iraq. Since then an array of Syrian and Iraqi forces have driven IS from virtually all the territory it once held, but the group is still present in remote areas along the border.

The extremist group, which attracted fighters from around



AP

In this photo released early Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017 by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrian security forces members remove human remains at the site where two mass graves believed to contain the bodies of civilians and troops killed by the Islamic State militants, in the village of Wawi near the northern city of Raqqa, Syria.

the world, carried out mass killings and other atrocities, including public beheadings. Women and men accused of adultery were stoned to death, while men believed to be gay were thrown from the tops of buildings and then pelted with stones.

Human Rights Watch said identifying missing people and preserving evidence for possible prosecutions is critical for Syria’s future.

“Raqqa city has at least nine

mass graves, each one estimated to have dozens, if not hundreds, of bodies, making exhumations a monumental task,” said Priyanka Motaparthi, acting emergencies director at HRW.

“Without the right technical assistance, these exhumations may not provide families with the answers they have been waiting for and could damage or destroy evidence crucial to future justice efforts,” she added.

The team in Raqqa, for

bian President Juan Manuel Santos, according to the U.S. official. Two high-ranking Colombian officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid antagonizing Trump confirmed the report.

Then in September, on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, Trump discussed it again, this time at greater length, in a private dinner with leaders from four Latin American allies that included Santos, the same three people said and Politico reported in February.

The U.S. official said Trump was specifically briefed not to raise the issue and told it wouldn’t play well, but the first thing the president said at the dinner was, “My staff told me not to say this.” Trump then went around asking each leader if they were sure they didn’t want a military solution, according to the official, who added that each leader told Trump in clear terms they were sure.

Eventually, McMaster would pull aside the president

HRW quoted Yasser al-Khamis, head of first responders in Raqqa, as saying that land mines further complicate exhumations.

Recovery and analysis of remains from mass graves is a complex process that requires a high level of expertise. Exhumations carried out without forensic experts can destroy critical evidence and complicate the identification of bodies, the report said.

and walk him through the dangers of an invasion, the official said.

Taken together, the behind-the-scenes talks, the extent and details of which have not been previously reported, highlight how Venezuela’s political and economic crisis has received top attention under Trump in a way that was unimaginable in the Obama administration. But critics say it also underscores how his “America First” foreign policy at times can seem outright reckless, providing ammunition to America’s adversaries.

The White House declined to comment on the private conversations. But a National Security Council spokesman reiterated that the U.S. will consider all options at its disposal to help restore Venezuela’s democracy and bring stability. Under Trump’s leadership, the U.S., Canada and European Union have levied sanctions on dozens of top Venezuelan officials, including Maduro himself, over allegations of corruption, drug

in documentation, HRW said.

Ibrahim al-Hassan, the head of the U.S.-backed Raqqa Reconstruction Committee, said the enormity of the task only became clear after the team of first responders began its work.

“We didn’t expect to have that many graves, and there could be even more,” he said by telephone from Raqqa.

The first responders prioritize emergency and rescue work but have expanded their ranks in order to deploy forensics teams to excavate mass graves. Al-Hassan said his committee has asked the U.S. to provide labs and DNA testing facilities but has yet to receive them.

“Our work currently is primitive,” he said.

Hammoud Shawakh, who coordinates between the U.S. and the Raqqa Reconstruction Committee, said the U.S.-led coalition has provided \$500,000 to the first responders so far this year. But he said DNA testing facilities are not widely available on the local market and would need to be provided by the U.S.

Migrants anxious to start anew in Europe after Libya ‘hell’

ABOARD THE OPEN ARMS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (AP)

Izzedine al-Ghalban’s first attempt to reach Europe ended when the boat engine died. The Libyan coast guard thwarted his second. After a third try, the 23-year-old rested on the deck of a Spanish aid group’s rescue ship as it headed toward Barcelona, grateful that he finally made it.

“Libya is hell,” al-Ghalban told The Associated Press on Tuesday aboard the Open Arms, a ship run by charity Proactiva Open Arms.

The young Palestinian from Gaza was one of 60 migrants the crew of the Open Arms rescued Saturday from a rubber boat floating in waters off Libya’s coast, a scenario that’s been repeated over and over on the Mediterranean Sea in recent years.

Such rescues are getting increasingly complicated after Italy’s new government closed its ports to ships like the Open Arms, calling them de facto “taxi services” for human smugglers operating in Libya.

Aid groups deny any links to the smugglers, saying they are trying to save lives amid a human catastrophe. Thousands of people have perished trying to cross the Mediterranean in flimsy vessels since 2015.

After the island nation of Malta also denied the Open Arms authorization to dock, Spain agreed for the second time this summer to receive a ship carrying migrants from the rescue zone off Libya, even though the country is much further away.

“I had seen the Spanish boat in my dreams,” said Judith Widianou, who fled violence in Central African Republic with her partner and their 9-year-old son. “I’m so happy, it’s as if God had come to me.”

Her son was sporting a FC Barcelona soccer shirt, given to him by the crew of the Open Arms.

“If a person leaves his country, it’s because there is danger there,” Widianou said. “Italy must calm its heart and do what it was doing before (rescuing and taking in migrants.) For the love of God.”

On the journey to Spain, some migrants rest while others learn Spanish, writing down basic vocabulary words and phrases in crumpled notebooks.

The ship is set to arrive in Barcelona on Wednesday. The migrants will get 45 days to apply for asylum in Spain or other countries in the European Union. Many have relatives in Germany, Belgium and France.

US official: Trump pressed aides about Venezuela invasion

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—As a meeting last August in the Oval Office to discuss sanctions on Venezuela was concluding, President Donald Trump turned to his top aides and asked an unsettling question: With a fast unraveling Venezuela threatening regional security, why can’t the U.S. just simply invade the troubled country?

The suggestion stunned those present at the meeting, including U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and national security adviser H.R. McMaster, both of whom have since left the administration. This account of the previously undisclosed conversation comes from a senior administration official familiar with what was said.

In an exchange that lasted around five minutes, McMaster and others took turns explaining to Trump how military action could backfire and risk losing hard-won support among Latin American governments to punish President Nicolas Maduro for taking

Environment

July Fourth brings some of the year's worst air pollution, thanks to fireworks



Crowds line the beach and the pier to watch the Fourth of July fireworks explode over the ocean at the pier in Huntington Beach, Calif., on July 4, 2017. AP

By TONY BARBOZA and
JON SCHLEUSS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Americans' fervor for Fourth of July fireworks has some unfortunate side effects.

But there's also a more widespread hazard from the yearly outburst of pyrotechnics: It spikes air pollution so sharply it becomes dangerous for everyone to breathe.

Independence Day and July 5 consistently have some of the worst air quality of the

year. With so many fireworks going off at once, levels of fine-particle pollution — a stew of tiny, lung-damaging specks of toxic soot, smoke and ash known as PM2.5 — surge several times higher than federal health standards across Southern California, air monitoring data show.

Pollution levels jump sharply around 8 or 9 p.m. the evening of the Fourth of July, around when it gets dark, reaching their peak late in the night. The unhealthy pall hangs in the still, nighttime

air and lingers through the following morning — a kind of hazy hangover from the night's revelry.

In downtown Los Angeles last year, fine particle pollution jumped above 300 micrograms per cubic meter — more than eight times the daily average health standard of 35 — and remained elevated through the following morning.

The phenomenon isn't unique to L.A. A 2015 nationwide study by U.S. government scientists found that on average, concentrations of fine-particle

pollution for the 24-hour period beginning at 8 p.m. on the Fourth of July are 42 percent higher than on other days.

Some authorities say pollution is yet another reason people should opt for professional pyrotechnics displays and not add to the problem by setting off their own personal fireworks, which are illegal in many communities, including the city of Los Angeles.

"We're not telling people to not have fireworks or anything, but we do want to let people know that there's usu-

ally a heightened health impact starting in the evening of the Fourth and into the morning of the 5th," said Kevin Durkee, a quality assurance manager with the South Coast Air Quality Management District in Southern California.

Fourth of July pollution may pose even greater risks compared with typical smog because it contains higher concentrations of toxic metals like barium and copper that are used in fireworks to generate bright colors, said Jun Wu, a professor of public health at

the University of California, Irvine who has studied the effects of air pollution.

"Those vulnerable populations may have a higher burden than usual," Wu said. "It's not just during the half an hour of fireworks, these particles float in the air for a few days or even a week."

To protect yourself, Wu and others suggest watching fireworks shows away from any plumes of smoke and keeping children's windows closed while they sleep on the evening of July Fourth.

Florida's Everglades now have 1,000 fewer pythons

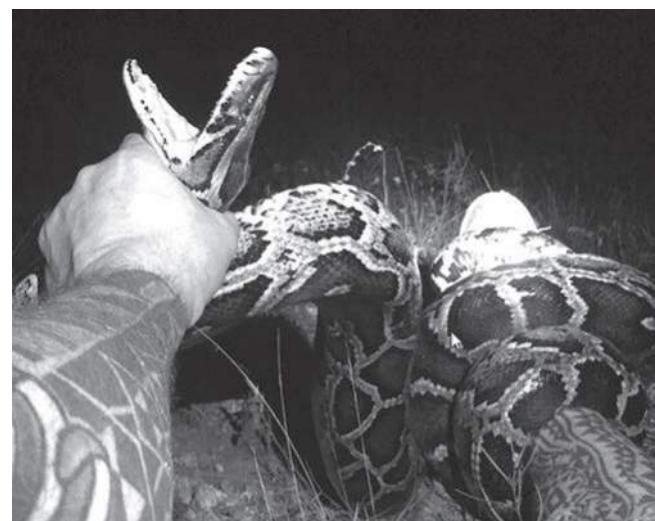
By JENNY STALETOVICH
MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—Snake hunters for the South Florida Water Management District hit a major milestone when they bagged their 1,000th Burmese python, before heading out and quickly catching eight more.

On Tuesday, the district held a celebratory check-in at the Homestead field station, documenting No. 1,000: an 11-foot, 2-inch male snake.

Hunter Brian Hargrove said he caught the snake about 11:40 p.m. Friday near the L-31E canal, a hot spot for python hunters that skirts the cooling canals at Turkey Point and empties into Card Sound. Hargrove, who has caught 115 snakes over the past year, called the capture a "bittersweet thing" during a district Facebook Live broadcast from the event.

A number of efforts to catch



An image posted by the South Florida Water Management District depicts the 1,000th Burmese python caught as part of SFWMD's Python Elimination Program.

the snakes, which included tagging male Judas snakes to track down breeding females and using snake-hunting dogs, have been tried over the years. But none captured enough snakes to offset costs. The

state's Python Challenge drew worldwide attention, but landed fewer than 200 snakes.

Then last year, the University of Florida tested a theory that managed hunts, using trained cobra hunters from India, could

work. In just two weeks, the hunters bagged 14 snakes.

Several months later the district launched its first hunt, hiring 25 hunters and paying a bounty for the invasive snakes for the first time in state history. After they bagged nearly 160 snakes in just two months, which also accounted for about 2,000 eggs, district managers agreed to make the hunt a regular gig. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission also signed off on killing pythons without a permit on private lands and about two dozen wildlife management areas.

Hunters have so far snagged pythons from 14 inches long to 18 feet, with an average length of about 9 feet, said district scientist Michael Kirkland. The voracious eaters can easily grow from a foot long at birth to 5 feet in their first

year, he said, and reach 11 feet in three to six years. Females lay between 30 and 70 eggs in a clutch each year, but it's

not known what rate the eggs hatch and survive, he said.

It's also not clear how many snakes now inhabit the marshes. Kirkland said. Everglades National Park, where they were first studied and documented, is considered the epicenter of the invasion. But, according to park officials, the estimates vary widely, from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands. As of October, 1,491 snakes had been removed from the park.

What's more certain is the potential risk of the snakes expanding their territory. Researchers have confirmed breeding pythons in the Keys and mating balls in Collier County. The University of Florida is now tracking their migration north, fearing that as climate changes pushes temperatures higher, the snakes will move further north.

"The prey base is decimated down here," Kirkland said. "So it's only a matter of time before they start branching out."

Life & Style

Ant-Man' sequel brings female characters to the forefront

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The “Ant-Man” sequel may be about tiny superheroes, but the film is making a big statement about female empowerment by featuring Evangeline Lilly’s The Wasp not only in the title, but giving her a larger stake in Marvel’s sprawling movie franchise.

“Ant-Man and The Wasp,” the 20th film in the Marvel cinematic universe that includes “Black Panther,” “Iron Man” and “Avengers: Infinity War,” is the first one in the series to include a female character in a title role. The prominence of The Wasp, a character who has major roles in the “Ant-Man” and “Avengers” comic books, comes after years of fan anticipation for a female Marvel superhero to get her own film. Scarlett Johansson has expressed her desire to see her character, Black Widow, get a standalone film, but Marvel Studios has kept her primarily in its marquee “Avengers” films.

“You know, I’ve asked myself the same question: Are we making a mountain out of a molehill?” Lilly said during a recent interview when asked about being featured in a Marvel film’s title. She said after considering it more closely, “No, actually, this is kind of a big deal, and this is about time.”

The film is the sequel to



Cast member Evangeline Lilly arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of “Ant-Man and the Wasp” at El Capitan Theatre on Monday, June 25, 2018.

2015’s “Ant-Man,” which introduced Paul Rudd as a thief enlisted by Michael Douglas’ Hank Pym to become a do-gooder. The original earned more than \$180 million in North America and \$500 million at the global box office. The sequel is the third Marvel Films release this year, but it largely steers clear of the developments in the blockbuster “Avengers: Infinity War.”

The Wasp was a comic book favorite of director Peyton Reed, who teased her appearance in future Marvel films with a cameo of her supersuit at the end of “Ant-Man.”

He said it was important that The Wasp be a fully-formed hero and not bound by stereotypes.

“I worked really closely with Evangeline, and we talked about, ‘Now we’re go-

ing to have a chance to make a fully formed hero, and we want her to be as dimensional as possible. And we don’t want her to be a hero who is always glammed up with hair and makeup. We wanted her to be a little sweaty. And we want her, like, when that helmet comes off, her hair is in a ponytail, because that’s the practical thing you would do,’” Reed said.

Lilly’s role isn’t the only prominent female character in the film. Hannah John-Kamen plays Ghost, a villain bent on sowing discord among powerful institutions, in a role that was initially written for a man.

“It’s amazing, as a female, to play such a strong character ... so that people can look up to that and see that, ‘Yeah, this is a progression,’” said John-Kamen, who is in her biggest role yet after starring in the Canadian sci-fi series “Killjoys” and having small roles in “Ready Player One” and “Tomb Raider.”

“There is so much more going on in this film that represents female energy, that represents female stories, that represents female struggle and that represents female power,” Lilly said. “In this film, I’m very proud to say I recognize authentic female power in that it’s powerful to be vulnerable, it’s powerful to be elegant, it’s powerful to be graceful and nurturing and kind and forgiving and compassionate and generous ... things that tend to be typically categorized as weaknesses.”

Marvel’s first film based solely on a female superhero will be the 1990s set “Captain Marvel,” which stars Brie Larson in the title role and is slated for release next year.

“Ant-Man and The Wasp”

is the first Marvel film to be released after April’s “Infinity War,” which upended the franchise and set up a fourth “Avengers” film that will be released next summer.

The “Ant-Man and The Wasp” cast are keeping any secrets about that film closely guarded. During a recent interview, Rudd started to answer a question about his character’s role going forward in Marvels films. “A funny story, because, you know, in ‘Avengers 4,’ he said, before pretending to be hit in the neck with a dart and falling out of his chair.

Douglas said before his first Comic-Con panel about the original “Ant-Man,” he underwent secrecy tests — and thought he might have to give blood — to prove that he could keep from spoiling that film’s secrets. While he thought it was a bit much at the time, Douglas said he’s grown to appreciate what Marvel Films has done and the care they take to avoid spoilers for fans.

“Marvel has done this amazing job of creating buzz just for people not knowing what exactly is going to happen,” Douglas said.

“We do not want to spoil things for people. There are people out there hired to try and find things out,” Rudd said. “It’s an amazing, intense thing to be a part of.”

Will LA mean LeBron behind the scenes and on the big screen?

LOS ANGELES (AP)— “Space Jam 2?” A whole new “House Party” franchise?

With the leadership of LeBron James, anything is possible.

As James comes from Cleveland to Los Angeles looking to take the Lakers to more championships with a blockbuster \$154 million contract announced this week, he could also push those two 1990s properties closer to reality and go from part-time presence to major player in Hollywood.

James hasn’t yet spoken about his plans for Los Angeles. But if he wants to, he’s already shown he can act, and not just in that good-for-an-athlete way.

His one real film role, playing himself in the 2015 Amy Schumer film “Trainwreck,” directed by Judd Apatow, won big raves.

The Associated Press’ Lindsey Bahr called him “a comedic revelation.” Ann Hornaday of The Washington Post said he showed “expert, deadpan timing.”

James’ co-stars agreed.

“He was really good. Like everything with him it was very effortless,” said Bill Hader, who played the movie’s male lead with James as his sidekick and previously acted with James when he hosted “Saturday Night Live.” “He’s always listening. I know actors that don’t listen, they’re just waiting to say their line. He listened.”

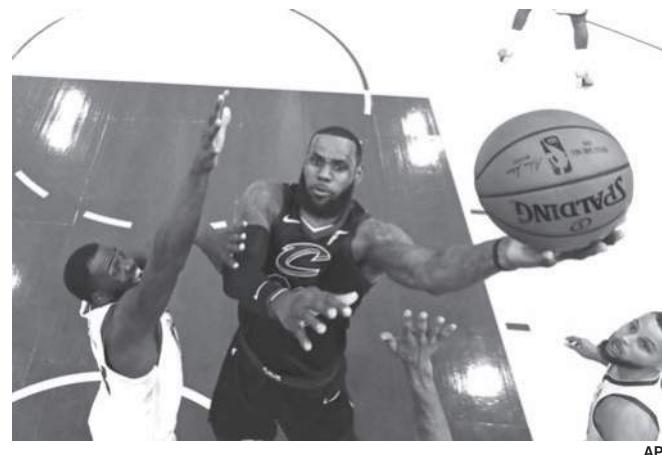
Hader said there was frequent improvisation on “Trainwreck,” and LeBron easily kept up with the sketch comedy pros like Hader.

“You’ll never believe this, but he was super confident,” Hader told the AP with a laugh by phone from the Toronto set of the film “It 2.”

“But not cocky,” Hader added.

“I remember Chris Rock was on set and rattled off a line suggestion really fast for LeBron, and LeBron said it back during the scene verbatim,” Hader said. “I remember thinking, ‘I can’t do that.’”

He wouldn’t be the first Laker to try acting. Kareem



In this June 6, 2018, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers’ LeBron James shoots against Golden State Warriors’ Draymond Green during the first half of Game 3 of basketball’s NBA Finals, in Cleveland.

Abdul-Jabbar and Shaquille O’Neal had their share of famous, and infamous roles. And Kobe Bryant ended up with an unlikely Academy Award for an animated short based on a poem he wrote about basketball.

Whether or not he appears on screen, James has already begun a major media career that can only get a boost from LA.

Gone are the days when athletes had to be in a major market to make it in film and television, as James himself has shown

through his years building his brand in Cleveland.

But there’s nothing like face-time for becoming a force in Hollywood.

James and his business partner Maverick Carter have a production company, SpringHill Entertainment, that has a deal with Warner Bros. and office space on the legendary movie company’s lot, where he could become a regular.

“Certainly the proximity will make it easier for LeBron personally to be part of future

projects,” said David Schwab, an executive vice president at Octagon, a global sports and entertainment marketing and management firm. “The advantage of a market like New York, Los Angeles and Golden State is the ability to have coffee, lunch or dinner daily” with key decision makers. “In a smaller market you don’t get those consistent opportunities,” he said.

Schwab said James’ partners at Warner Bros. and elsewhere are most likely “excited that he’s in Los Angeles as they could possibly use LeBron personally to close business deals with future partners of their own.”

James, via SpringHill and his digital film company Uninterrupted has already brought some projects to big and small screens, with many more in the works. Here are some highlights:

■ “Space Jam 2.” The idea of James reviving the 1996 movie starring another candidate for greatest basketball player of all time, Michael Jordan, has been in circulation for several years. The movie with Jordan battling animated aliens alongside Bugs Bunny

and his Warner Bros. cartoon buddies brought mixed reviews and eyerolls at the time, but has become a cult classic. Justin Lin of the “Fast & Furious” films has been attached as director.

■ “House Party.” Stephen Glover and Jamal Olori of “Atlanta” are writing a script that James and SpringHill hope will revive the franchise that starred Kid n’ Play and spawned three big-screen sequels from 1990 to 1994.

■ “Smallfoot.” James will have another chance to show off his comic chops as the voice of a skeptical yeti in Warner Bros’ animated film.

■ “Now We’re Talking.” A digital comedy series on Uninterrupted that features two rival professional football quarterbacks who become broadcasters and frequent pro athlete cameos is about to enter its second season.

■ SpringHill is also producing several more television projects including the game shows “The Wall” and “Do or Dare” and “Rise Up,” a documentary about the civil rights movement for the History Channel.

Get ready to gobble! Eating titans take on hot dog contest

NEW YORK (AP)—It's face off Wednesday at Nathan's Famous July Fourth hot dog eating contest, where the men's Chowdown champions will

record stands at 72 frankfurters and buns in 10 minutes.

Ten-time winner Joey "Jaws" Chestnut will confront 20 other men on New York's Coney Island boardwalk. He set the record last year.

Miki Sudo (MIHK'-ee SOO'-doh) is seeking a fifth women's title in a row. The 19-woman field includes record-holder Sonya "The Black Widow" Thomas.

Sudo downed 41 franks and buns last year. Thomas' record is 45, but she managed 30 last year.

The event attracts thousands of in-person spectators and is televised on ESPN.

Last year, animal rights activists tried to unfold a banner amid the crowd. Five protesters were taken into custody for questioning and released.

Miles Teller to play Goose's son in 'Top Gun' sequel

NEW YORK (AP)—Miles Teller has been cast as the son of Goose in the long-planned sequel to "Top Gun."

Teller was announced Tuesday as the co-star opposite Tom Cruise in "Top Gun: Maverick." He'll be playing the son of Maverick's wingman. Goose was played by Anthony Edwards in the 1986 original.

The film, which will also returns Val Kilmer as Ice-

man, is scheduled to be released by Paramount Pictures in July 2019. Directing is Joe Kosinski, who helmed "Oblivion," also with Cruise.

Actors Glen Powell and Nicholas Hoult had been up for the much sought-after part, but Teller won out.

The 31-year-old actor celebrated on Twitter with the first half of a famous quote from "Top Gun": "I feel the need..."



AP

Ten-time and defending Nathan's Famous Men's Champion Joey Chestnut poses with 72 hot dogs during Nathan's Famous International Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest weigh-in at the Empire State Building on Tuesday, July 3, 2018, in New York.

Beach Boys versus Sara Evans at July 4th rival TV concerts

NEW YORK (AP)—The Fourth of July is usually a time for national unity, when Americans of all political stripes often turn their gaze to Washington as part of a patriotic lovefest. But there promises to be some division this year when it comes to what to watch.

PBS' tradition of broadcasting music and fireworks from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol is facing competition Wednesday from a different live concert in the same city at the same time hosted on the South Lawn of the White House. Each event will also feature competing "American Idol" alums.

PBS' "A Capitol Fourth" has the bigger stars: The Beach Boys, Jimmy Buffett, Pentatonix, Chita Rivera, Luke Combs, The Temptations, Renee Fleming, CeCe Winans, Joshua Bell and "American Idol" singer Lau-



In this photo taken on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, Beach Boys musicians Mike Love, left, and Bruce Johnston, right, during an interview with Associated Press at Spiritland in London.

ren Alaina. It will be hosted by John Stamos.

The entertainers appearing at the 90-minute White House event on the Hallmark Channel include singer-songwriter Sara Evans, pianist Lola Astanova and former "American Idol" fi-

nalists Jonny Brenns and Jax. Both shows will feature the night's big draw — the fireworks show from the National Park Service, which has blessed both rival city concerts.

The White House announced the Independence

Day counterprogramming late last month, with Melania Trump saying in a statement: "Americans will be able to tune in from their homes and be part of the festivities." The first lady and Donald Trump are also hosting a picnic for military families.

Hallmark and the National Park Foundation first established a partnership in 2016 when the broadcast channel aired the National Christmas Tree Lighting from the White House lawn. The foundation hopes to use Hallmark to help raise awareness of America's 417 national parks.

A representative for PBS declined to comment on its new rival to the country's longest-running live national July 4th TV tradition. Evans also declined comment, citing travel and rehearsal demands.

Russian-born Astanova,

a classical pianist who has both met the Trumps socially and performed for them, will be on a piano for the national anthem. She said the experience will be very humbling.

"Obviously, it's a tremendous honor to play the national anthem on the Fourth of July at the White House. It's a tradition that goes back 200 years ago and, for me, as a first-generation American, this is extremely meaningful," she said. "You may even say it will be emotional."

Astanova said the event isn't political or "about any specific administration or president. This is about our nation's birthday." She said she got the invitation from Hallmark and juggled her schedule to attend.

"If there's one day when we should put our political differences aside and things that divide us and focus on what

unites us and really celebrate what we love about this great country, I think this is the day," she said.

Both Washington shows will compete with the annual Macy's 4th of July concert and fireworks display in New York City. That will be on NBC and will feature Kelly Clarkson, Ricky Martin, Blake Shelton, Keith Urban, American Authors and Brandon Victor Dixon. Matt Iseman and Akbar Gbajabiamila from "American Ninja Warriors" will host.

Trump, a former reality TV star, has had difficulties attracting top-notch talent to his celebrations. At his inauguration, he lured Michael Flatley, YouTube quartet The Piano Guys and Tony Orlando. Controversy broke out when some Rockettes chose to skip the festivities and Jennifer Holliday dropped out following criticism.

Late bloomer worries he is being labeled a playboy

DEAR ABBY: I have never been married. I've been perceived as a "playboy" for many years now. I don't mean to be, but when I sense the potential for a passionate romantic encounter with flowers, candy, champagne, pot (and an occasional Quaalude), the urge takes over.

I was never considered "hot" until I turned 50 and decided to get in shape. I had a hair transplant, a neck lift and lost 25 pounds. Shouldn't I continue to enjoy this? I'm really loving it. But I worry about the comments about my age. I look about 38.

MAX IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR MAX: If you are wooing adult women with flowers and candy, that's the traditional way of going about it. However, if you are using alcohol, pot and Quaaludes to render them so dizzy they can't refuse your advances, it is considered rape—a prosecutable offense no matter how good you look for your age. If you doubt me, just look at the news.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are pregnant, and we are arguing over the gender of the baby. We have wanted this child for a long time and had trouble conceiving. I won't care if it's a boy or a girl, but he is adamant that he wants a boy. He has even gone so far as to say that he will be disappointed if it isn't.

We find out the gender this month, and I'm not sure how to

prepare or if we should even find out. Help!

DISAPPOINTED IN OHIO

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: Many men fantasize about having a son, a "mini-me" to teach sports to, just as many women dream of having a daughter and what her first prom will be like or helping her to plan her wedding. When most couples have a baby, the first thing they do is thank God the baby is born healthy.

Little girls have been known to wrap their daddies around their little fingers before they are old enough to walk. The same is true for baby boys and their mothers. Please do not take your husband's spouting off so seriously; it will pass. As to whether you should determine the sex of your baby before birth, consider this: It will give you time to color-coordinate the nursery and layette.

DEAR ABBY: My good friend injured her back, so I offered to help out with chores and errands while she recovers. One of the errands was to pick up some groceries, which included items for a barbecue party. No problem. However, I later learned she threw a grand cookout on Memorial Day, complete with boat rides, jet skis, fireworks and tons of food -- the food I picked up for her. The kicker? I wasn't invited! Am I immature

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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By ROSELYN B. MONROYO REPORTER

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Former champs Sharapova, Kvitova crash out

LONDON (AP) — These are not the sorts of matches Maria Sharapova is supposed to lose, letting lead after lead slip away Tuesday against a qualifier ranked 132nd—and in the first round of Wimbledon, no less.

Then again, at this edition of The Championships, as they prefer to call the event around here, the initial 48 hours have provided more surprising exits than anyone's accustomed to: A total of seven top-10 men's and women's seeds departed in the opening round, more than in any previous year in the professional era's half-century.

That includes two-time champion and No. 8 seed Petra Kvitova, who was sent home by Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus 6-4, 4-6, 6-0 a few hours before 2004 titlist Sharapova folded against Vitalia Diatchenko in a 6-7 (3), 7-6 (3), 6-4 loss she seemingly controlled time and again before dropping the last three games.

"Sometimes," Sharapova said, "you put yourself in a better or winning position, and you don't finish."

A 15-month doping ban kept her out of the grass-court Grand Slam tournament in 2016, and an injury sidelined her a year ago. It looked as if it would be a pleasant, straightforward return when she went ahead by a set and a break at 5-2.

Sharapova then served for the match at 5-3, but faltered. After being pushed to a third



Maria Sharapova reacts after a wide shot during the women's singles match against Vitalia Diatchenko on the second day at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Tuesday July 3, 2018. AP

Djokovic eased into the second round.

Nadal breezed into the second round with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 win over Israel's Dudi Sela as the Spaniard returned to action for the first time since claiming his 11th French Open title.

Nadal, the Wimbledon champion in 2008 and 2010, also managed to avoid falling victim to a player ranked outside the world top 100 for what would have been the fifth time in his last six visits to the All England Club.

"I'm just happy to be through of course and yes, this match gives me positive feelings," said Nadal after seeing off world number 127 Sela.

Nadal, the 17-time major winner, has not got past the fourth round since finishing runner-up to Djokovic in 2011.

Djokovic reached the second round with a 6-3, 6-1, 6-2 win over Tennys Sandgren of the United States.

Djokovic, seeded 12, was back at the tournament where last year he was forced to retire from his quarterfinal against Tomas Berdych with an elbow injury.

set, Sharapova went up a break at 2-1. That edge disappeared right away. She went up another break at 4-3. That advantage, too, was given right back. Sharapova's collapse eventually ended, perhaps fittingly, with her 11th double-fault.

How unlikely was this result? Since losing the first two

Grand Slam matches of her career as a teenager, Sharapova was 49-1 in openers at majors, 13-0 at Wimbledon.

She's a former No. 1, now seeded 24th, who owns five Grand Slam titles. And Diatchenko?



Repeatedly sidetracked by injuries of one sort or another—"I think I will write a book after I finish playing," Diatchenko joked about her health history—the 27-year-old Russian came into the day 0-2 at Wimbledon and 8-25 overall

in main-draw matches at all tour-level events.

"Everybody," Diatchenko said, "expects me to lose the match."

Nadal, Djokovic advance

Meanwhile, two-time men's champion Rafael Nadal and three-time winner Novak

bases-loaded, bases-clearing double in the decisive sixth, Mark Canha added a solo homer that inning, and Oakland rallied to beat San Diego. Chad Pinder added a solo homer in the seventh.

The A's finally got to San Diego starter Clayton Richard (7-8) in the sixth.

White Sox 12, Reds 8

In Cincinnati, Daniel Palka and Avisail Garcia each homered twice, and Yoan Moncada tripled with the bases loaded in the 12th inning as Chicago pulled off its biggest comeback of the season.

Trailing 7-2 after five innings, the White Sox pulled even in the ninth on Garcia's solo homer off Raisel Iglesias, then pulled it out with the help of a couple of Reds errors.

Rays 9, Marlins 6, 16 innings

In Miami, Jake Bauers hit a tiebreaking two-out, two-run double in the 16th, ending Tampa Bay's 13-inning scoreless streak and lifting the Rays over Miami.

The Rays won for the ninth time in 11 games and improved to 17-21 in one-run games. No major league team has played more.

Kershaw wins, Dodgers bang 6 HRs vs Pirates

a major league-leading and franchise-record 55 in June.

"It's pretty remarkable what we're doing," manager Dave Roberts said. "When I look at what we've accomplished offensively, we're in some uncharted territory."

Kershaw (2-4) allowed two runs and four hits in six innings of his third start since coming off the disabled list.

Red Sox 11, Nationals 4

In Washington, Xander Bogaerts hit a three-run homer during a six-run fifth inning. J.D. Martinez and Eduardo Nunez also went deep, and the Boston Red Sox beat the Washington Nationals, 11-4.

Martinez drove in four and leads the majors with 26 homers and 71 RBI. Boston has won 17 of its last 19 interleague games.

Yankees 8, Braves 5

In New York, Giancarlo Stanton, Aaron Hicks and Kyle Higashioka each homered and New York went ahead early and hung on to beat Atlanta.

Aaron Judge had two hits and a walk, and he stole two bases for the first time in his career. Hicks also walked

Mariners 4, Angels 1

In Seattle, Wade LeBlanc allowed one run over seven innings and Seattle beat Los Angeles for its eighth straight victory.

The Angels' Shohei Ohtani was activated from the 10-day disabled list and went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts in his return. He had been sidelined since June 8 with a Grade 2 ulnar collateral ligament sprain.

Diamondbacks 4, Cardinals 2

In Phoenix, Paul Goldschmidt hit a three-run homer, Zack Greinke pitched effectively into the seventh inning and Arizona ended a four-game losing streak by beating St. Louis.

Goldschmidt followed a four-hit night Monday with a three-run homer off Jack Flaherty (3-4) in the fifth inning.

Indians 6, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Yan Gomes hit a sixth-inning grand slam as Cleveland rallied to beat Kansas City.

The Indians lead the AL with

eight grand slams. Francisco Lindor hit a grand slam Monday.

Phillies 3, Orioles 2

In Philadelphia, Zach Eflin pitched seven strong innings for his sixth straight victory and Andrew Knapp had the winning hit for the second straight game.

Rhys Hoskins had a two-run double for the Phillies, who have won 11 of 16.

Cubs 5, Tigers 3

In Chicago, Anthony Rizzo drove in his second run of the game in the seventh inning to snap a tie, Kyle Schwarber followed with a solo homer in the eighth and Chicago rebounded from an early three-run deficit to edge Detroit for its fifth straight win.

With one out in the seventh, Jason Heyward and Ben Zobrist singled off reliever Daniel Stumpf (1-4).

Brewers 2, Twins 0

In Milwaukee, Eric Thames hit a two-run homer and three pitchers combined on a two-hit shutout as Milwaukee beat Minnesota.

The Twins fell to 1-7 on their current nine-game road trip.

Blue Jays 8, Mets 6

In Toronto, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a tiebreaking two-run home run in the eighth inning and Toronto rallied from a five-run deficit to beat New York.

Yangervis Solarte hit a tying three-run home run off Robert Gsellman in the seventh before Gurriel went deep off Tim Peterson (1-1) in the eighth as the Blue Jays won for the 11th time in 14 home games.

Rockies 8, Giants 1

In Denver, Antonio Senzatela pitched seven scoreless innings in his first start of the season, Nolan Arenado hit his NL-leading 22nd home run and Colorado beat San Francisco.

Astros 5, Rangers 3

An Arlington, Josh Reddick and Tony Kemp homered, Dallas Keuchel worked seven solid innings to win for only the second time in his last nine starts and Houston beat Texas.

Houston is 11-4 this season against its instate division rival, with seven consecutive road wins in the series.

Athletics 6, Padres 2

In Oakland, Jed Lowrie hit a

Spurs want Ingram, Kuzma, and more for Kawhi



SAN ANTONIO
(AP)—Kawhi Leonard is still a member of the San Antonio Spurs. For now.

After much speculation, San Antonio did not end up trading Leonard to the Los Angeles Lakers prior to LeBron James deciding to sign with the purple-and-gold. Meanwhile Leonard has reportedly had other suitors, including the Philadelphia 76ers.

But now that LeBron's opt-out date with the Cleveland Cavaliers has come and passed, and his decision has been made, the Spurs seemingly don't have any particular leverage over the Lakers. However, that hasn't changed their asking price.

According to NBA salary cap guru Larry Coon, the Spurs are still asking a king's ransom for Leonard. Coon says San Antonio's asking price of LA is Brandon Ingram, Kyle Kuzma, Josh Hart, two first round picks, and two draft pick swaps.

That would be a massive haul for San Antonio, which makes sense given how valuable Leonard is. Still, the former Finals MVP did cut some of the Spurs leverage when information about him wanting to leave Texas leaked earlier this year.

It's also seems like a long play type of decision for an organization that isn't looking to get bullied by a disgruntled star. While the Lakers may have shown their intention to sign Leonard in the summer of 2019 by inking several 1-year deals, The Spurs still aren't backing down at this point. Keeping the asking price high and only help boost whatever they reap when the time eventually does come to trade Leonard.

They are still playing the waiting game, but it will be interesting to see where Leonard ends up as we move deeper into the NBA offseason. The most likely negotiations still remain between the Lakers and the Spurs, especially if it



San Antonio Spurs' Kawhi Leonard, right, drives past Los Angeles Lakers' Brandon Ingram during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017, in Los Angeles. AP

is true that Leonard is reticent to re-sign wherever he's sent to outside of LA.

In Oakland, the Golden State Warriors will be much younger next season, and general manager Bob Myers is working to keep much of the core intact to chase another championship.

Versatile big man Kevon Looney will re-sign with the two-time defending champions on a one-year deal for the minimum, a person with direct knowledge of the agreement said Tuesday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Looney's new deal cannot become official until he signs after the moratorium period is lifted Friday.

Golden State already reached agreement with two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant on a two-year contract with a player option.

Bringing back Looney, a power forward and center, was a top priority for Myers, who also hopes to re-sign guard Patrick McCaw.

Looney lost about 30 pounds last offseason to transform his body, make himself faster and give him a regular spot in coach Steve Kerr's rotation, even earning starts in five postseason games during the absence of Andre Iguodala.

In his third professional season, the 22-year-old Looney averaged 4.0 points and 3.3 rebounds in 13.8 minutes per game.

While the Warriors lost center JaVale McGee to the Lakers, they added DeMarcus Cousins on Monday to give Golden State five potential All-Star starters once Cousins returns from a torn Achilles tendon that required surgery.

ESPN first reported Looney's agreement.

major champions.

It wasn't until 2002 that the PGA Tour finally recognized the British Open as an official victory, setting the all-time victory record of Sam Snead at 82. It's worth revisiting the HSBC and making those victories retroactive. It matters more in principle than in history, with one exception.

Mickelson won the first HSBC Champions, playing with Woods in the final group. Mickelson's goal is to get to 50 career victories.

Mickelson is at 43. He should be at 44.

Free agency trend: Stay home or sign short deals

For those seeking the trend in NBA free agency this year, it's this: Most players are either staying put, or taking short-term deals that allow them to hit the market again next summer.

Such was largely the case Tuesday.

Utah kept two of its free agents, agreeing to extensions with Dante Exum (three years, \$33 million) and Raul Neto (two years, \$4.4 million). Avery Bradley, in a deal that was struck late Monday night, is also staying put -- coming to terms with the Los Angeles Clippers on a two-year contract worth \$25 million.

Most of the other known deals that were made on Day 3 of free agency were all of the short-term variety.

Tyreke Evans got \$12 million to spend next season with the Indiana Pacers. Jeff Green agreed to terms on a \$2.4 mil-

lion, one-year deal with Washington -- which is expected to seek another one-year pact with Dwight Howard later this month when he finalizes his Brooklyn buyout--and Michael Carter-Williams got a veteran's minimum deal to play in Houston next season.

All the deals were confirmed to The Associated Press by people familiar with the negotiations, all of whom spoke on condition of anonymity because the NBA offseason moratorium on signings does not end until Friday.

The Jazz have quietly crossed off many items on their summertime wish list, with general manager Dennis Lindsey going into free agency saying he wanted to keep all three of his team's internal free agents.

Check. Check. And check. The deals with Exum and Neto came one day after Utah agreed to keep Derrick Fa-

vors on a two-year, \$36 million deal.

Evans will give Indiana's offense a lift. He's a proven scorer, someone who expanded his 3-point ability last season when he averaged 19.4 points per game with Memphis.

Green fills a big-man void, after the Wizards traded away starting center Marcin Gortat--the hole that Howard conceivably will fill--and losing backup power forward Mike Scott to free agency. Green, who turns 32 in August, spent last season with the Eastern Conference champion Cleveland Cavaliers.

Carter-Williams gives Houston some guard depth behind MVP James Harden and Chris Paul, and Houston gives Carter-Williams yet another chance to restart what was a very promising career. He was the NBA's rookie of the year for Philadelphia in

2013-14 when he averaged 16.7 points per game. But his scoring average has dropped each year since, and the Rockets will be his fifth team in six seasons.

With LeBron James being a very obvious exception--getting four years to leave Cleveland for the Los Angeles Lakers--most of the biggest signings so far have been players staying home. Those include Paul staying with Houston, Nikola Jokic with Denver, Paul George with Oklahoma City, Aaron Gordon with Orlando, Golden State's Kevin Durant and Denver's Will Barton.

Outside of James, the biggest-money deal that involves someone filing a change-of-address card is Dallas' \$24.1 million agreement with DeAndre Jordan. But even that one falls into the short-term trend, since that's just for next season.



POTOMAC, Md.
(AP)—Francesco Molinari went from a share of the 54-hole lead

to an eight-shot runaway in the Quicken Loans National, a performance that would not have surprised anyone who saw his victory in Shanghai in 2010.

Molinari never flinched in a duel with Lee Westwood that came down to the last hole in the HSBC Champions. He won by one shot, but far more notable was that no one else was within 10 shots of the Italian. It was his only World Golf

Tour should consider making HSBC victories retroactive

Championship, and the biggest win of his career.

At least on the European Tour.

The PGA Tour finally put a WGC outside America, but then it did not recognize the HSBC Champions as an official victory until 2012. Molinari still received 68 world ranking points and \$1.2 million. He even got into Kapalua a few months later for the Tournament of Champions.

But he remains slightly bothered that it didn't count

as a PGA Tour victory. Westwood was No. 1 in the world. Molinari beat Rory McIlroy by 11 shots, Tiger Woods by 12, Phil Mickelson by 20.

"When everyone was saying I never won on the PGA Tour, I felt like saying, 'Well, technically, it was pretty much a PGA Tour tournament,'" Molinari said Sunday. "But yeah, it's just a formality, and I think it's different anyway to win on U.S. soil. ... So this win feels special."

The tour logic when the

HSBC Champions began—"WGC Lite" was the nickname—was that only 29 players in the 78-man field were PGA Tour members. It found it unrealistic to count such a big purse against the money list, even though it would not have affected anyone at Disney the following week as it relates to the top 125.

A year after Molinari won, the PGA Tour said that it would count as official provided a PGA Tour member won. Martin Kaymer of Ger-

many won, so it didn't count. The tour undoubtedly was answering to Americans who felt international players had a quick avenue to a PGA Tour card—never mind that they beat some of the strongest fields.

Ian Poulter won in 2012 and it counted as a PGA Tour victory. He was followed by Dustin Johnson, Bubba Watson, Russell Knox, Hideki Matsuyama and Justin Rose. All were PGA Tour members. Five of the nine winners are

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Comets 1's Bing Nakamura proved he truly deserved a spot on the CNMI Junior All-Star Team after winning both the regular season and Finals MVP awards in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball that concluded late last month.

Nakamura towed Comets 1 to the pennant and championship wins, teaming up with fellow pitcher Reid Teregeyo in dominating the Talaabwogh Falcons in the finals, 8-1. Besides the two MVP plums, Nakamura hauled five more trophies for scoring the most runs, homers, triples, and RBIs in the season and posting the best batting average.



Meanwhile, other individual awardees in the Junior League divisions were ERA champion Reid Teregeyo, also from the Comets 1, doubles champion Delbert Sablan and strikeout champion Shane Mallens of the Chiefs.

In the Senior League, the Fielders' Dennis Cabrera and the Falcons' Pedro Maratita split the MVP honors. Cabrera took the regular season MVP title, while Maratita got the same award in the Finals after helping the Falcons down the Braves, 7-4, and get their third straight division crown.

Maratita also prevailed in the most triples competition, sharing the honors with teammate Aven Evangelista, Cabrera and Darvincie Manalo as

will be working and moving forward soon."

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that they would follow the same process when they first designated a land for the newly built soccer facility—that has a main pitch, one mini pitch, offices, bleachers, and ample parking area. Both the main and mini pitches have artificial turfs with the latter can be used for two five-a-side matches and one nine-a-side. The main pitch is reserved for 11-a-side games and training sessions by the CNMI national teams.

The Department of Public Lands, before the construction

"A top-class save. I'm surprised he could reach it, given his height," Southgate said of the save from Bacca's penalty.

"His athleticism around goal is excellent and again he executed the planning in the penalty shootout. We'd studied all their penalty takers. Great credit to a collective of staff and him for taking on that information and preparing in the right way. You don't always get what you deserve in life, but I think tonight we did."

On an evening that ended with such frenetic energy, Pickford had little to do earlier.

Colombia was on the defensive for most of the first half and lacked bite in attack. England took the lead on a Harry Kane penalty in the 57th and Colombia came charging back. In stoppage time Mateus Uribe fired a stinging shot from long range and Pickford leaped to keep it out with one outstretched hand, sending it wide of the goal and cannoning into the advertising boards.

Pickford could do nothing about the subsequent corner. Colombia defender Yerry Mina rose above Harry Maguire and headed the ball off the turf and in despite Kieran Trippier's headed clearance attempt. Extra time and penalties loomed, and fans felt the weight of those 22 years without a shootout win.

At 6 foot 1 inch (1.85 meters), Pickford is small for a World Cup goalkeeper.

Nakamura earns pair of MVPs



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Harry Nakamura, 11, joins Comets 1 players and coaches in a huddle before returning to the field during their title game against the Falcons in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball late last month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

all four recorded three apiece. Cabrera added the home run trophy to his credit and had to share the title with Froilan Camacho, Leveque Iguel, Joel Norita, and Jericho Jones. The tied players scored one roundtripper each.

There was also a tie in the in the most RBIs contest with Cabrera and Tyrese Camacho getting 12 each, while the former was the solo winner in the runs category with his 19. Rounding out the list of awardees in the Senior League division were strikeout king Iguel, batting champ Norita, and ERA top finisher Evangelista.

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run to their opponents.

In the other semis pairing, the No. 2 Philippines will meet No. 3 Hong Kong with the former slightly favored in their duel, owing to the hosts' 1-0 triumph against the visitors in the elimination round match last Monday.

Torres, who lives just two blocks away from the center.

Hunter, for his part, said the facility would bring growth to Koblerville—a village that has had faced a lot of challenges, especially among its youth.

"I grew up in Koblerville and this area has faced many challenges. But with this facility here, it would create a lot of opportunities for the people of the village and activities that would promote healthy living for the youth and open other business opportunities that would benefit the community."

Torres said the center would also help NMIFA reach its goal of having more than 3,000 registered players. "[Currently] there are more than 1,300 players, 55 teams, and nine clubs. That is just amazing with the families gathering here in a healthy environment. Why shouldn't we give the NMIFA another property?"

"Because we see progress, this is progress and they are about action as well. I congratulate the organization and the players. In order for us to reach the goal of 3,000 players, we need another soccer pitch. So, I look forward to giving them the property and moving forward to make more dreams a reality."

movement stood out at St. Petersburg Stadium.

His goal was scruffy, though. After getting past Granit Xhaka, Forsberg didn't get much power behind his shot from the edge of the area and it was likely heading straight for Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer. However, it took a deflection off the foot of center back Manuel Akanji and bounced up and into the net.

It was enough to make Sweden the fifth European team to reach the quarterfinals. The Swedes will next play either England or Colombia on Saturday in Samara.

The last time Sweden made it this far at the World Cup was in 1994, when the team reached the semifinals.

Brazil relying on balance vs Belgium

While the focus is on Neymar's flashy scoring ability and his other antics in Russia, Brazil's steady progression at the World Cup has solidified the team's status among the favorites left in the tournament.

Nemesis Germany is gone. So are Lionel Messi and Argentina. Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal are out.

But for Brazil, the word favorite—"favorito" in Portuguese—is taboo.

"We feel confident but not

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working on that. The papers and documentaries should be forthcoming," said Torres.

The property is just beside the newly opened training center.

The governor then urged the public, especially the players, to protect the facility. "This facility is yours and it's going to be here for a long time."

Alex Sablan, president of the new club Fiesta FC and host of the opening ceremony, said the designated land is beside the main pitch. "This is for an additional pitch that we

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wasn't enough on its own -- he also needed lightning reactions to shoot his left arm up to paw away Bacca's high shot.

The save gave England's Eric Dier a chance to win the shootout, and he converted. England moved on 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

"I did a whole bunch of research," Pickford said, his confidence sky-high. "(Radamel) Falcao is the only one who didn't go his way. I don't care if I'm not the biggest keeper in the world. I have the power and agility."

Pickford was just two years old when England last won a penalty shootout, a few days older when the now-England coach Gareth Southgate missed the deciding penalty in a European Championship semifinal loss to Germany. That defeat at home was treated almost as a national trauma, as was the penalty loss to Argentina two years later.

Pickford only emerged as a leading Premier League keeper last year and made his debut for England in November. But he has rapidly become part of Gareth Southgate's new generation of English talent.

At 6 foot 1 inch (1.85 meters), Pickford is small for a World Cup goalkeeper.

After the 90 minutes were up, "we just reset. And just go 'Bang, we're going again and however long it takes.' Like the gaffer said, 'If it takes extra time, if it takes penalties, we are going to win this game,'" Pickford said. "It's a bit of a lottery, but you can do your research."

It wasn't just England's miserable record which seemed to stack the odds against the team. Its penalty takers lacked experience of major tournaments—though none of the penalty takers had been involved in any of those shootout losses—and had to stare down a stand packed with ravenous Colombian fans.

While Colombia's David Ospina stood taciturn, Pickford was a ball of energy. He jumped and jiggled on the line.

Falcao sent Pickford diving headlong before placing the ball through the unguarded center. Juan Cuadrado put the ball high and left, far beyond Pickford's reach. Luis Muriel sent him diving the wrong way.

With England 3-2 down and facing elimination, Pickford leaped to touch the crossbar as Mateus Uribe stepped up, and the Colombian blasted the ball into the bar.

Trippier made it 3-3, and Pickford was up again to face Bacca. After saving from the

AC Milan forward, he squatted to the side of the penalty area, frog-like in his green uniform. Dier hit the winning penalty low and left for England and Pickford's teammates charged toward him to celebrate in a group hug.

The joy of victory was built on self-belief, Pickford said.

"Our mindset and mentality, we never stopped," he said. "We knew we had this game even if it went to penalties."

Forsberg delivers for Sweden

The heir to Zlatan Ibrahimovic finally delivered for Sweden at the World Cup.

Emil Forsberg scored a deflected goal in the 66th minute to give the Swedes a 1-0 victory over Switzerland on Tuesday and a place in the World Cup quarterfinals for the first time in 24 years.

Shy and understated, the 26-year-old Forsberg couldn't be more different than the larger-than-life Ibrahimovic, who ruled the Sweden team for more than a decade and was the greatest player the country ever produced.

But Forsberg arrived in Russia shouldering the creative burden left by Ibrahimovic following his retirement two years ago, and the attacking midfielder's skills and slick

like the favorites because we know that there are other quality teams that have great potential. The favoritism comes from the press and the fans," winger Willian said. "We want to remain firm in our goal, which is to move step by step and reach the final."

The five-time World Cup champions opened the knockout round on Monday night by defeating Mexico 2-0 for their third straight shutout in Russia. Neymar scored his second goal of the tournament in the 51st minute, and substitute Roberto Firmino scored in the 88th in Samara.

Neymar again grabbed attention for his theatrics after he tangled up with Mexico's Miguel Layun, who stepped on the Paris Saint-Germain star's right ankle. Neymar writhed on the field in apparent agony before popping back up and finishing the match.

Brazil goes on to face Belgium in the quarterfinals on Friday in Kazan. The Belgians are coming off a 3-2 comeback win against Japan in Rostov-on-Don.

Brazil was ranked second by FIFA upon arrival in Russia, but the team opened with a lackluster 1-1 draw against Switzerland. Since then, Brazil hasn't conceded a goal, winning three successive games 2-0.

NMI Soccer Training Center Opening

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



▲ TanHoldings Football Club coach Jessica Costales, right, assists players in some activities prior to the opening of the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Tuesday.

► Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, and NMIFA president Jerry Tan listen to the opening remarks of event host and new club Fiesta FC president Alex Sablan.



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter details how their partnership with NMIFA began.



▲ Players from different clubs participate in some drills before the opening ceremony.

► NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta delivers his speech as CNMI officials listen.

From left, NMIFA president Jerry Tan poses with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta after the association recognized the governor's help in the construction of the facility.



NMIFA president Jerry Tan, left, congratulates Korean Football Association and East Asian Football Association president Chung Mong-gyu, center, after handing over a special plaque of appreciation to the visitor, while NMIFA general Secretary Ross Zapanta looks on.



Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, second left, accepts a plaque from NMIFA president Jerry Tan, left, and general secretary Ross Zapanta. MVA product development manager Tatiana Babauta, fourth left, and MVA board member Chris Nelson are also in the photo.



Former champs
Sharapova,
Kvitova crash out

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Saipan Tribune Sports

28 THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2018

Spurs want Ingram,
Kuzma, and more
for Kawhi

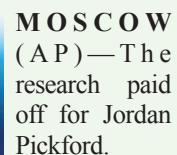
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



England's penalty curse ends



MOSCOW
(AP)—The research paid off for Jordan Pickford.

When Carlos Bacca stepped up to take Colombia's fifth and final penalty, Pickford knew he was likely to shoot to the left.

The 24-year-old goalkeeper,

AP England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford saves a penalty during the round of 16 match between Colombia and England at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Spartak Stadium, in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, July 3, 2018.

in just his seventh England appearance, trusted his re-

search and leaped. Research

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QUARTERFINALS SCHEDULE

	Uruguay	VS	France	
				(July 7, 12AM)
	Brazil	VS	Belgium	
				(July 7, 4AM)
	Sweden	VS	England	
				(July 8, 12AM)
	Russia	VS	Croatia	
				(July 8 23, 4AM)

SOURCE: FIFA.COM (Schedule is based on Saipan Time)

CNMI in ASPAC playoffs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Senior All-Star Team is still in contention for a World Series ticket after making it to the semifinals of the 2018 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament yesterday at the Global Villages, Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga, Philippines.

The Doru Camacho-managed team moved into the Final Four following a 6-3 victory in a playoff game against Hong Kong. The win was only the second for the CNMI Senior All-Stars, who finished the preliminary with a 1-2 mark to place No. 5 in the seven-team field. However, it was enough to keep the squad in the race for a spot in the World Series.

The Commonwealth bets will need two more victories to rule the tournament and make it to Easley, South Carolina later this month. The first should come against rival Guam, which automatically marched into the semifinals after earning topping the preliminaries.

Guam is heavily favored in its semis game against the CNMI today at 7am as the former earned a perfect 4-0 going into the playoffs and defeated the latter, 10-3, in their earlier meeting last Sunday.

As underdogs, the CNMI Senior All-Stars could draw

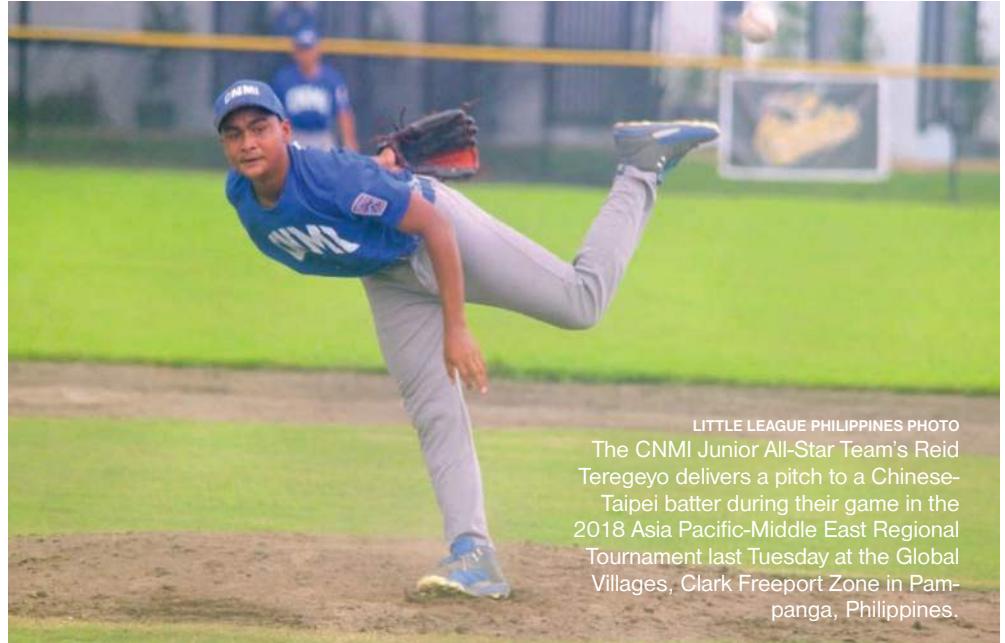


the tournament so far after hammering the No. 2 rank Kiwis.

Meanwhile, in the Junior League, the CNMI is also in the semifinals despite losing to Hong Kong, 4-7, in its last match in the elimination yesterday.

The CNMI Junior All-Stars finished the prelims with a 1-3 record and face a daunting task in today's semifinals, as they take on the unbeaten and defending champion Chinese-Taipei. The Taiwanese shut down the Commonwealth players last Tuesday, 10-0, and have yet to surrender a single

See CNMI on Page 26



LITTLE LEAGUE PHILIPPINES PHOTO
The CNMI Junior All-Star Team's Reid Teregeyo delivers a pitch to a Chinese-Taipei batter during their game in the 2018 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament last Tuesday at the Global Villages, Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga, Philippines.

Another soccer pitch eyed

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI will have another pitch as the government has designated an additional property that Northern Mariana

Islands Football Association will use to build a facility.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, in his remarks in last Tuesday

night's opening ceremony of the state-of-the-art NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, said this was only the

beginning of the government's partnership with the NMIFA through the Department of Community and Cultural Af-

fairs. "It's not going to end today. This is only the beginning. We've talked to [DCCA] Sec. Robert [Hunter], whose doing a great job, and we're contributing and giving you the additional property you need to fulfill the other pitch. I know we're

See ANOTHER on Page 26



JON PEREZ
Players and officials of local football clubs line up on the field during the opening of the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Tuesday night.

